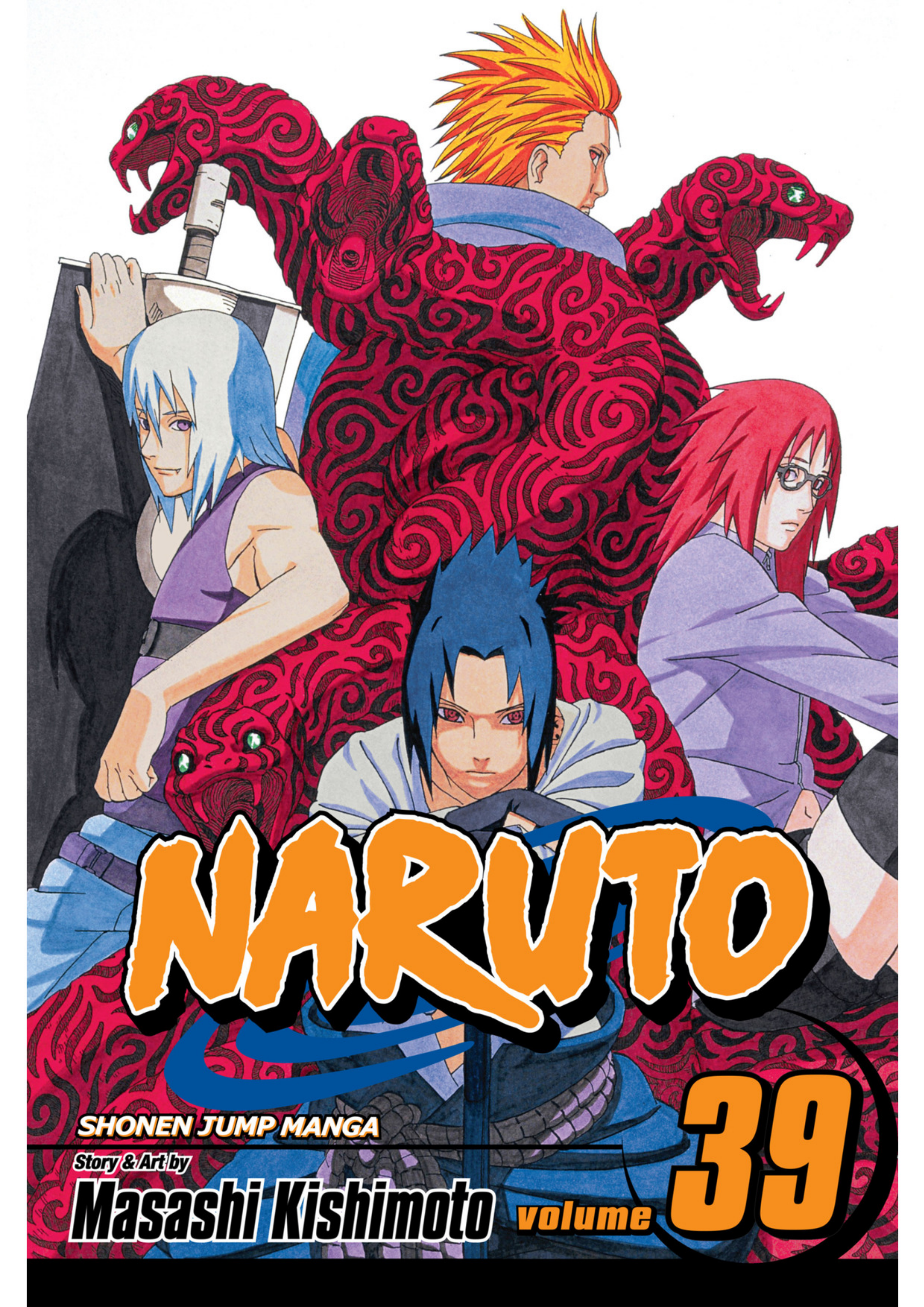

NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 39





岸本斉史

I have a sensitive stomach. Air conditioning gives me bad runs. Frozen desserts give me bad runs. Milk, even if I drink it really slowly, gives me bad runs. Just thinking about bad runs gives me bad runs.

—*Masashi Kishimoto, 2007*

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 39
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Deric A. Hughes & Benjamin Raab
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant
Design/Gerry Serrano
Editor/Joel Enos

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP, Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra
VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, March 2009





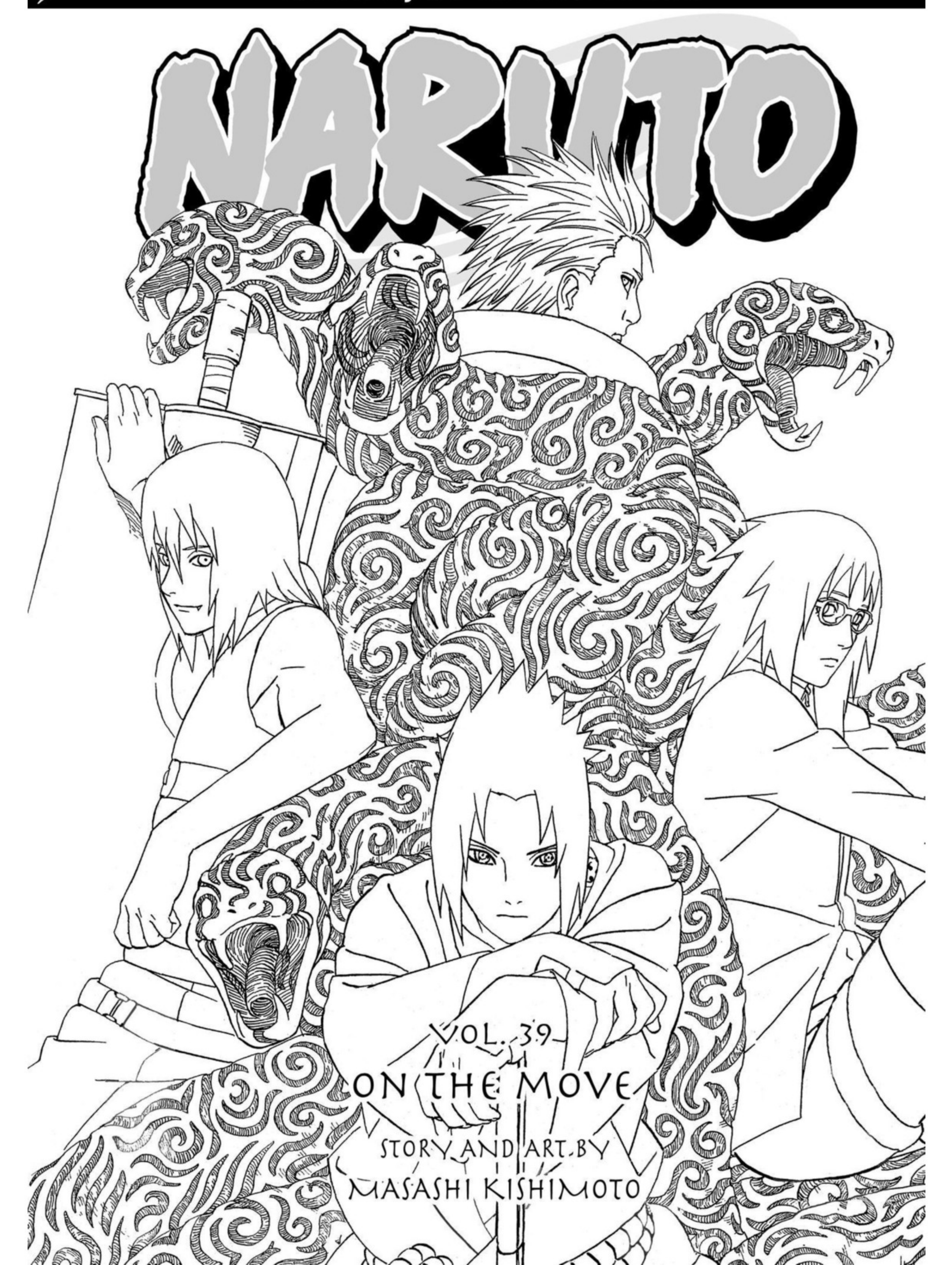
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PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION
NARUTO
VOL. 39
ON THE MOVE
STORY AND ART BY
MASASHI KISHIMOTO













The Story So Far…

Once the bane of the Konohagakure Ninja Academy, Uzumaki Naruto now serves dutifully among the ranks of the Konoha shinobi—an illustrious group of ninja sworn to protect their village from the forces of evil seeking to destroy it from without and within…

While the threat of the criminal organization known as the Akatsuki looms ever-present, Naruto's former classmates—Shikamaru, Choji and Ino—embark on a mission to find Captain Asuma's killer. And when their quest brings them into conflict with Kakuzu—one of the Akatsuki's deadliest members—it's Naruto who takes the enemy down with a display of power that rivals even the Fourth Hokage himself!

Meanwhile, Uchiha Sasuke continues down the dark path he set out upon when he joined Lord Orochimaru, one of Konoha's greatest foes. Convinced he's learned all he can from his dark master, Sasuke betrays and kills Orochimaru. With one of his goals accomplished, he begins assembling a team of powerful allies in order to achieve his ultimate goal—the destruction of his brother, Uchiha Itachi! Having enlisted the swordsman Suigetsu and the tracker Karin, there remains but one last person for him to recruit…





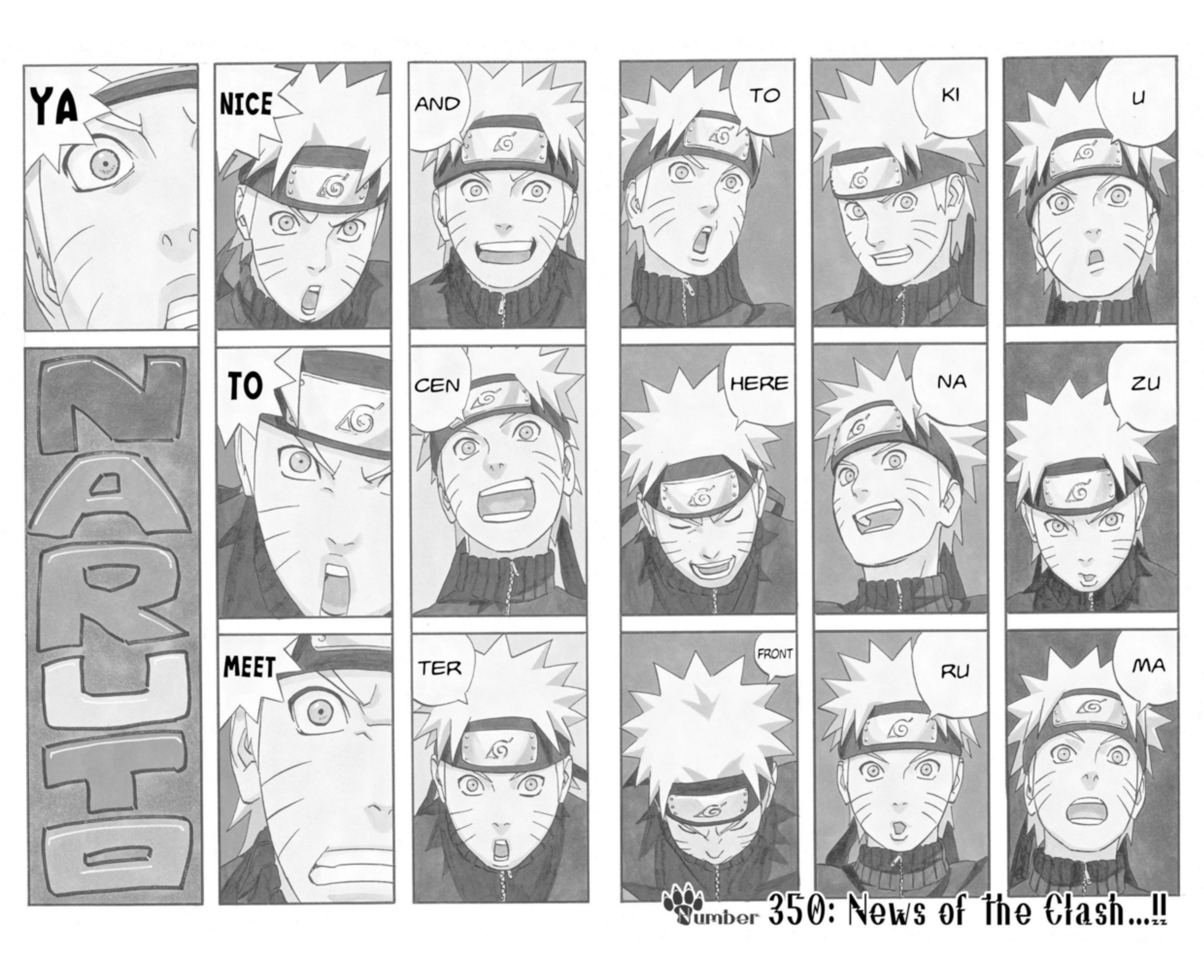
NARUTO

VOL. 39
ON THE MOVE

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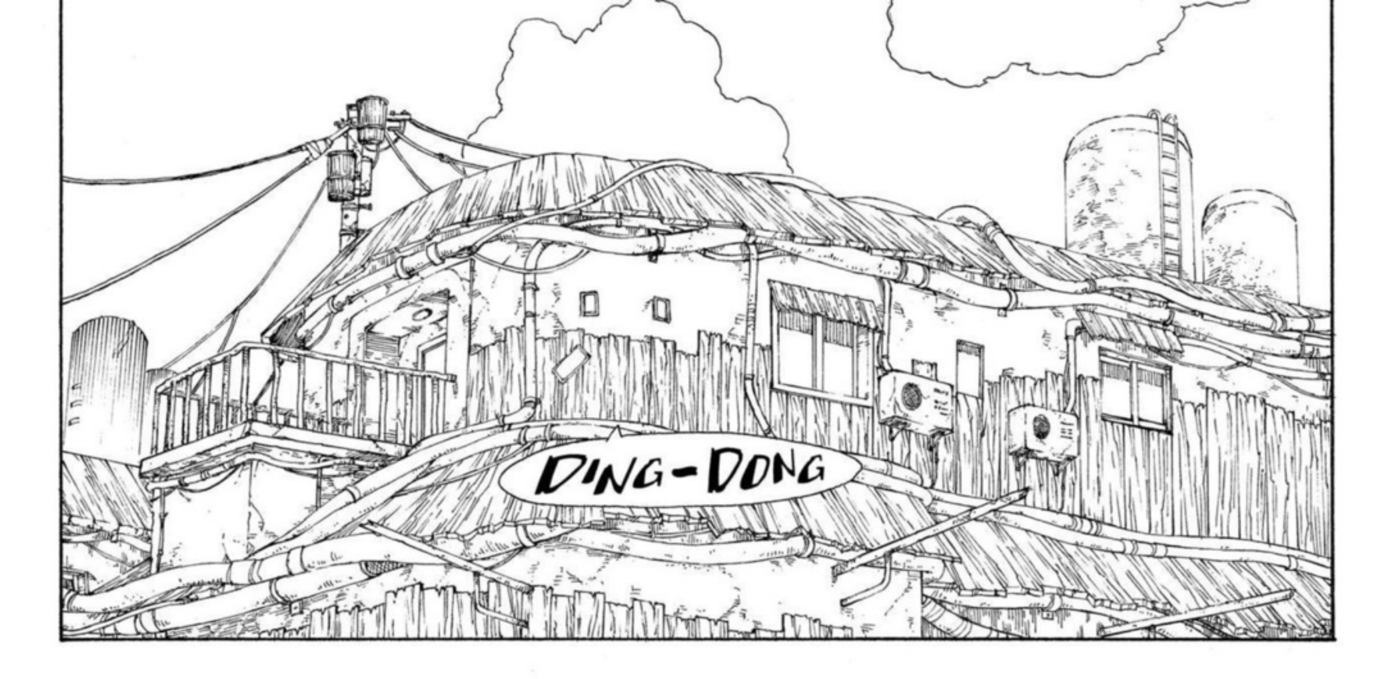

NARUTO



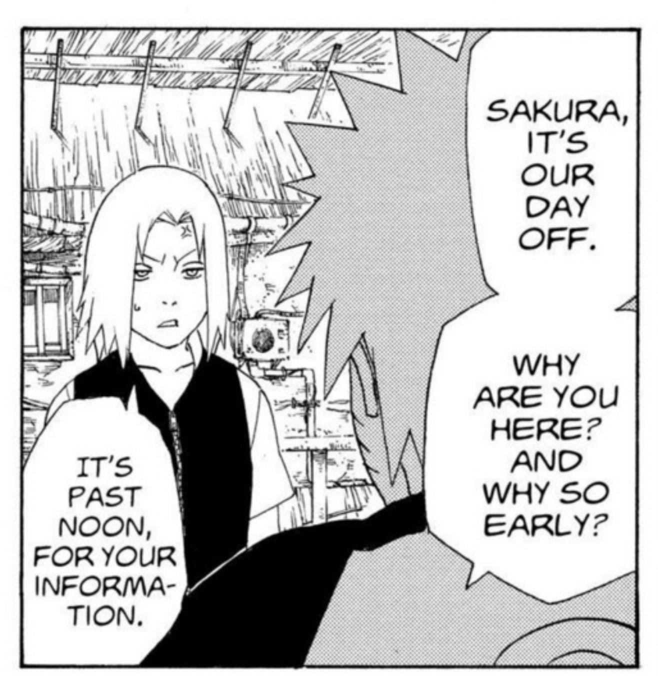
Number 350: News of the Clash...!!


NARUTO

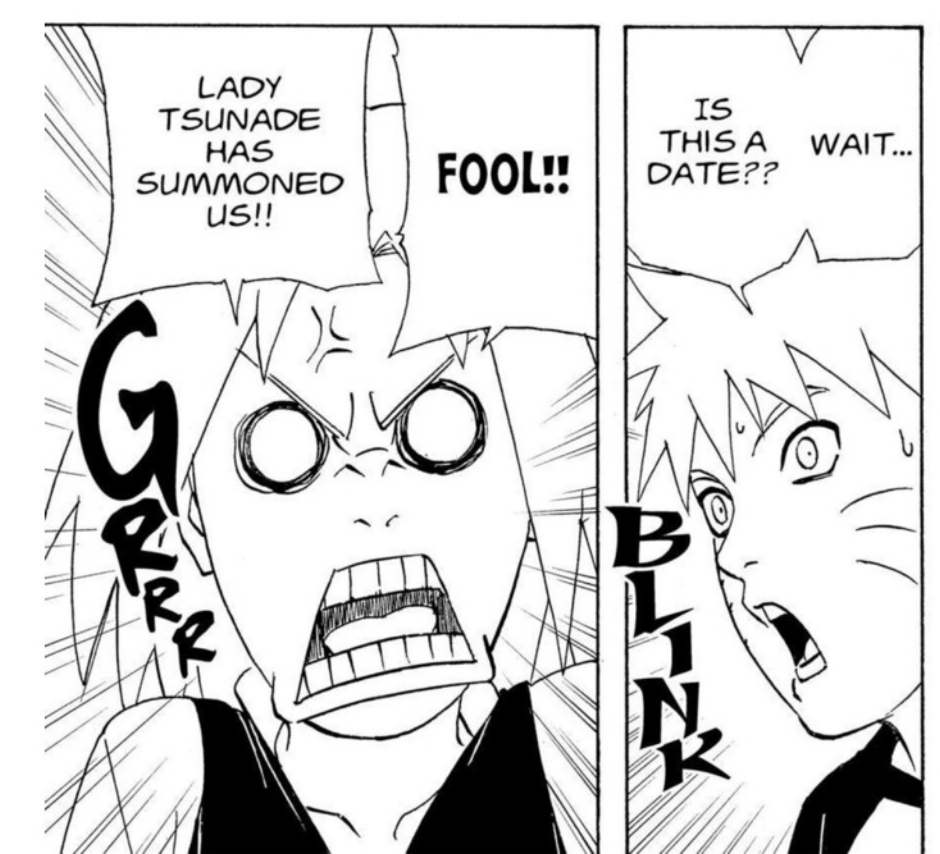


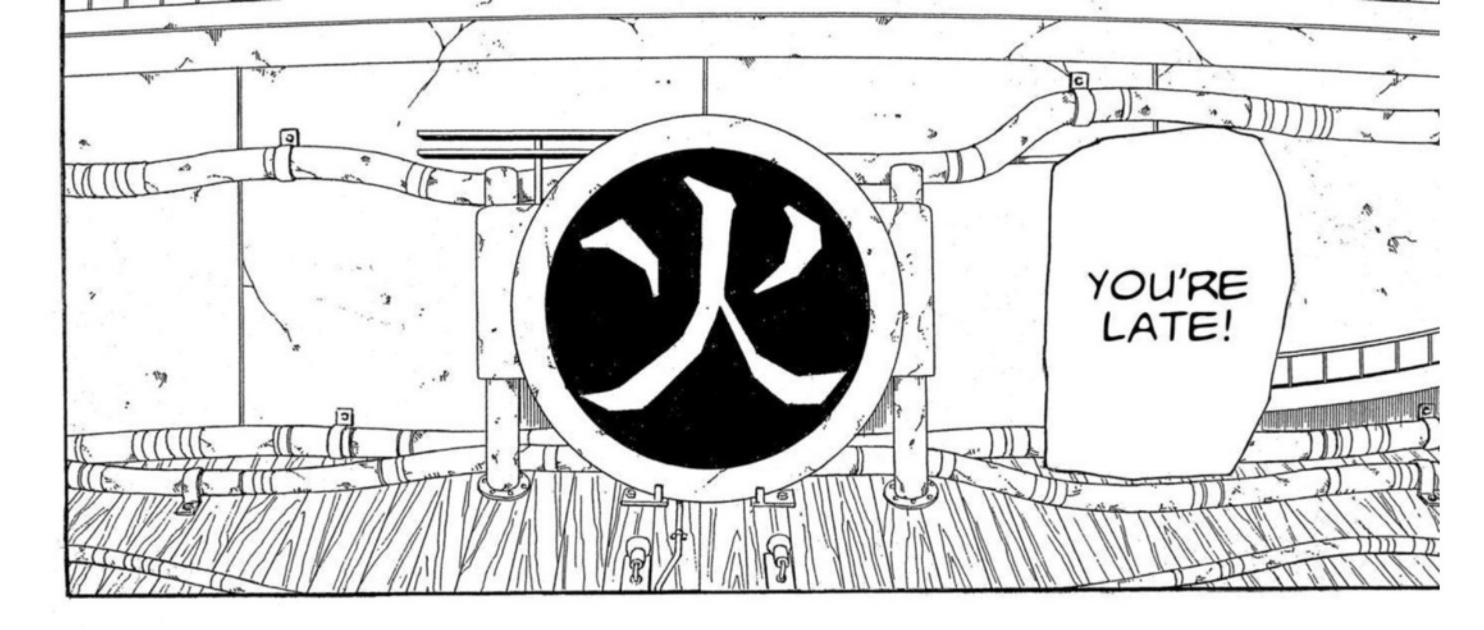

DING-DONG


SQUINT...
'ALLO ...?
RAMEN ALREADY, NARUTO? YOU JUST WOKE UP!
CUP RAMEN

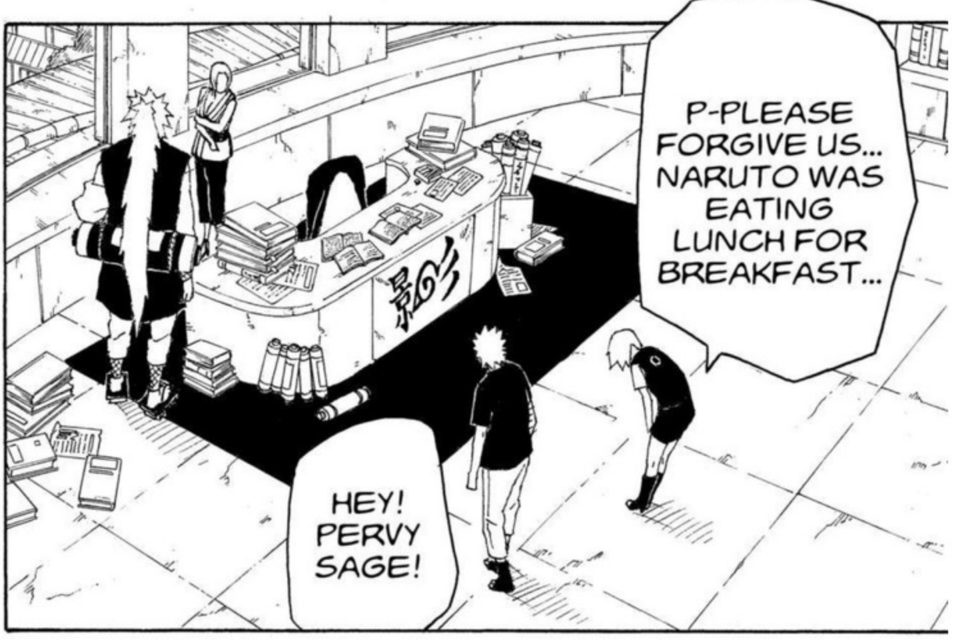

SAKURA, IT'S OUR DAY OFF.
WHY ARE YOU HERE? AND WHY SO EARLY?
IT'S PAST NOON, FOR YOUR INFORMATION.


BUT NEVER MIND THAT...
JUST WASH UP AND CHANGE, OK? I'LL WAIT RIGHT HERE.


WAIT...
IS THIS A DATE??
BLINK
FOOL!!
LADY TSUNADE HAS SUMMONED US!!
GRRR


YOU'RE LATE!


WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG!
NOW NOW, TSUNADE ...

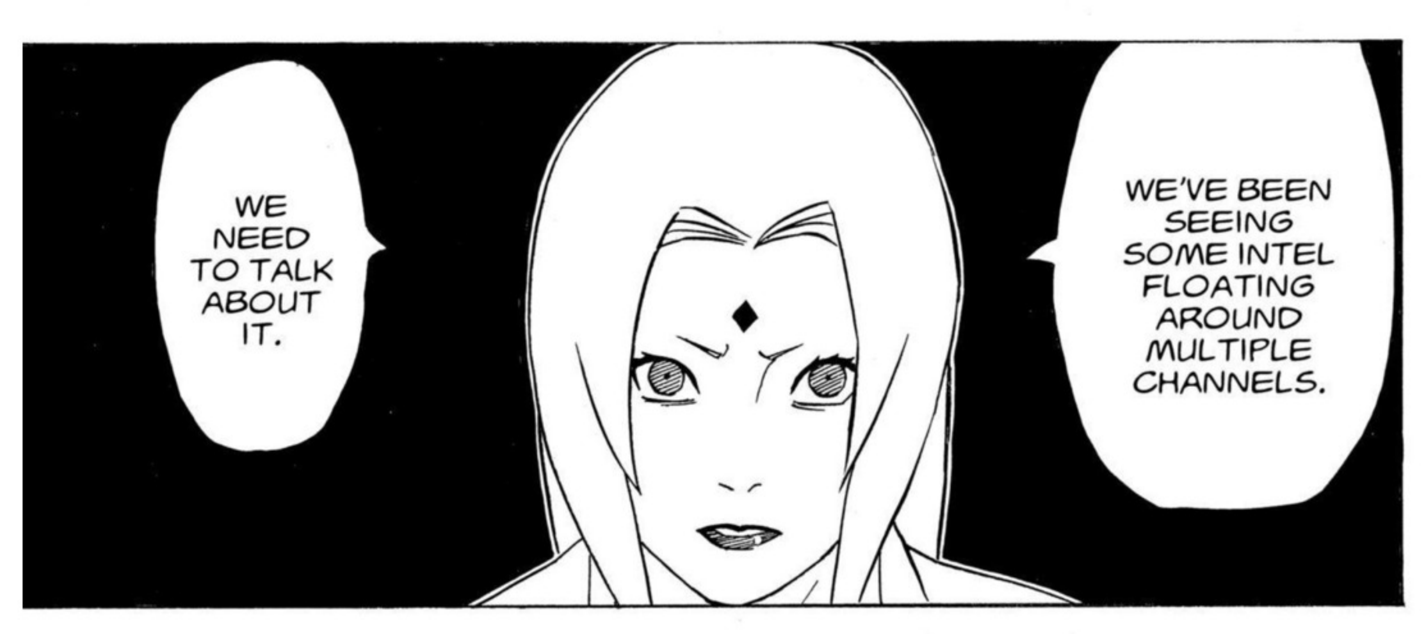


P-PLEASE FORGIVE US... NARUTO WAS EATING LUNCH FOR BREAKFAST...
HEY! PERVY SAGE!
LONG TIME NO SEE, NARUTO!

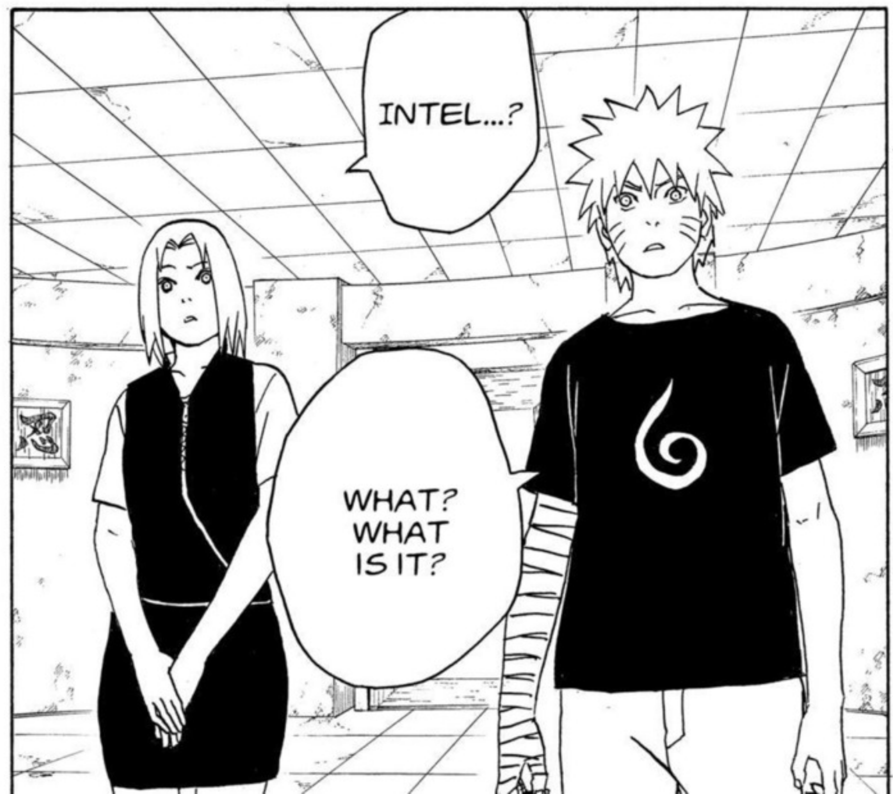

READ
THIS
WAY


SO...
WHAT DID YOU WANT TO DIS-CUSS...?

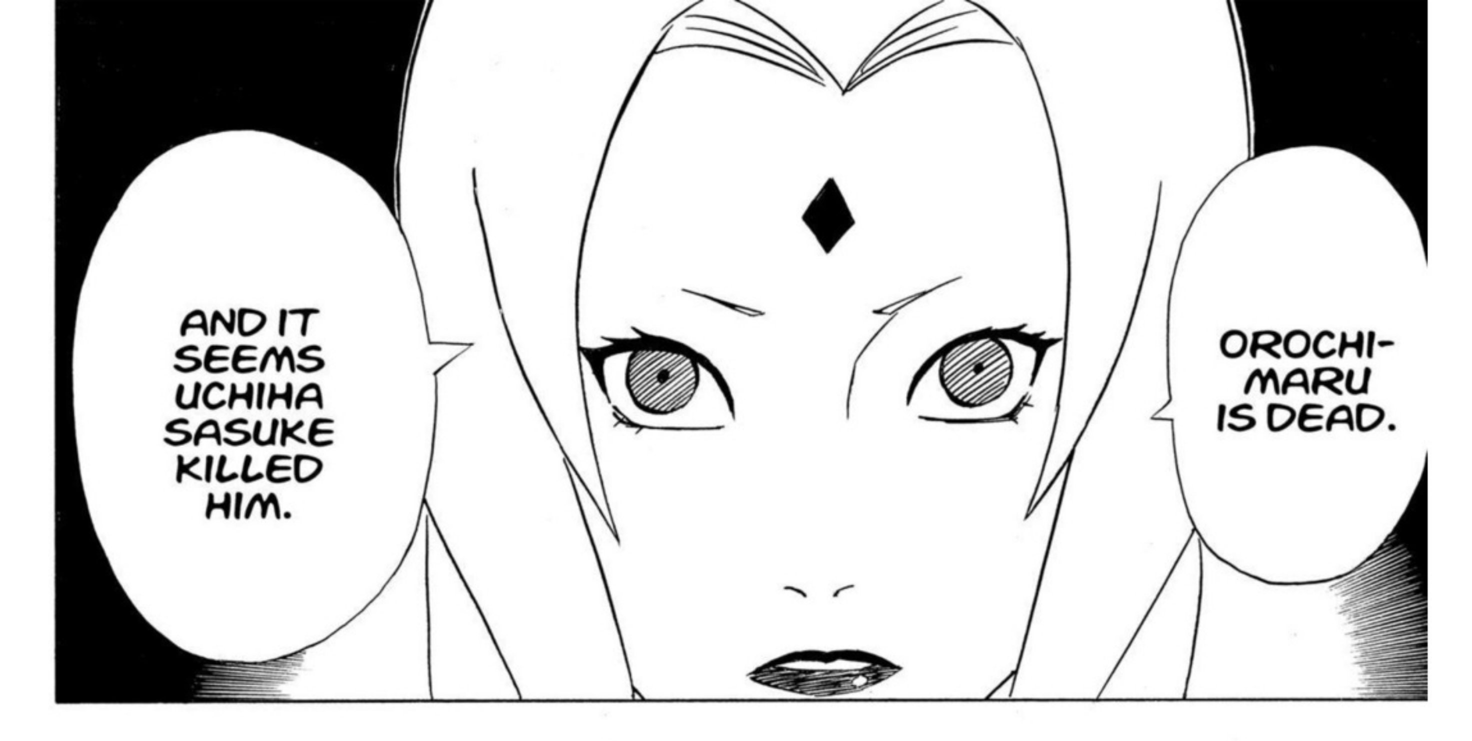

...
MM...

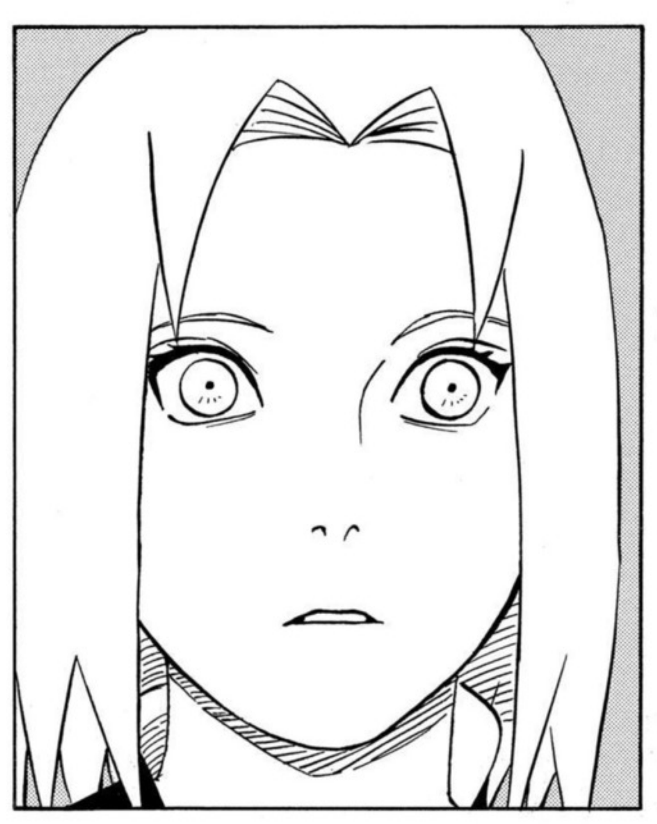

?


WE'VE BEEN SEEING SOME INTEL FLOATING AROUND MULTIPLE CHANNELS.
WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT.

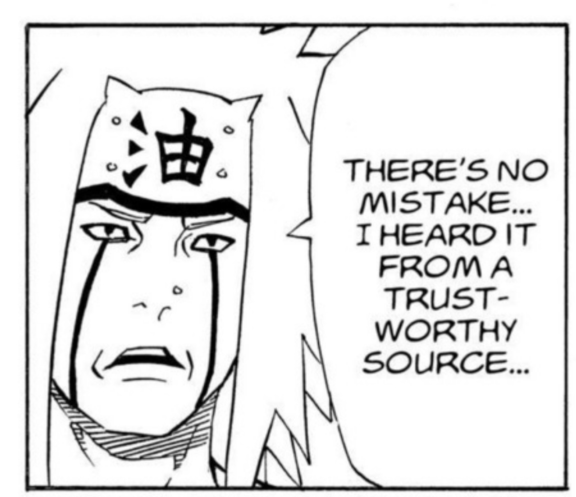

INTEL...?
WHAT? WHAT IS IT?


...


OROCHI-
MARU
IS DEAD.
AND IT
SEEMS
UCHIHA
SASUKE
KILLED
HIM.

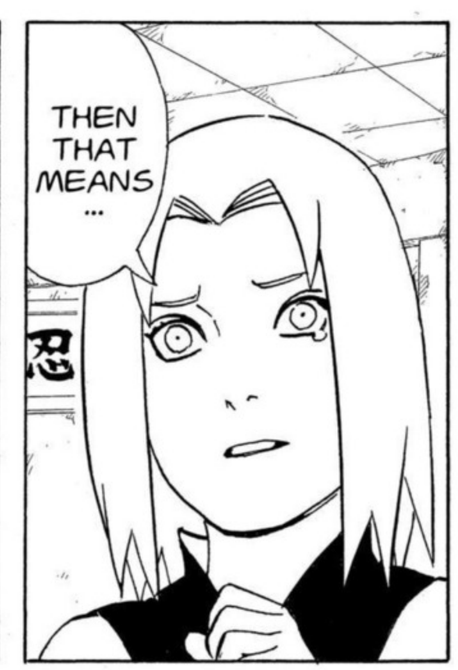





THERE'S NO
MISTAKE...
I HEARD IT
FROM A
TRUST-
WORTHY
SOURCE...


SERI-
OUSLY?!
FOR
REAL...??


READ THIS WAY


THEN THAT MEANS ...

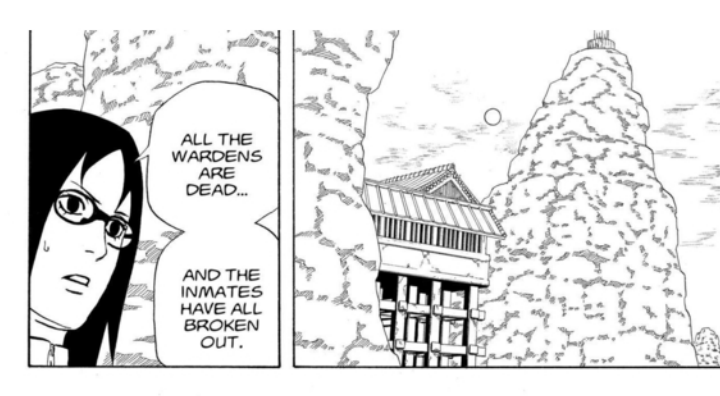

WOO HOO!
I KNEW OROCHI-MARU COULDN'T BREAK HIM!

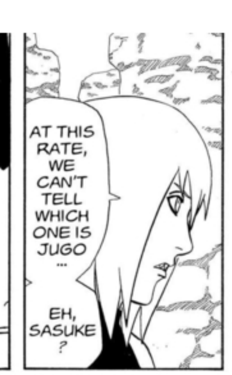

THEN SASUKE'S COMING HOME TO KONOHA!
RIGHT?!


...




UNFORTU-NATELY, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT...

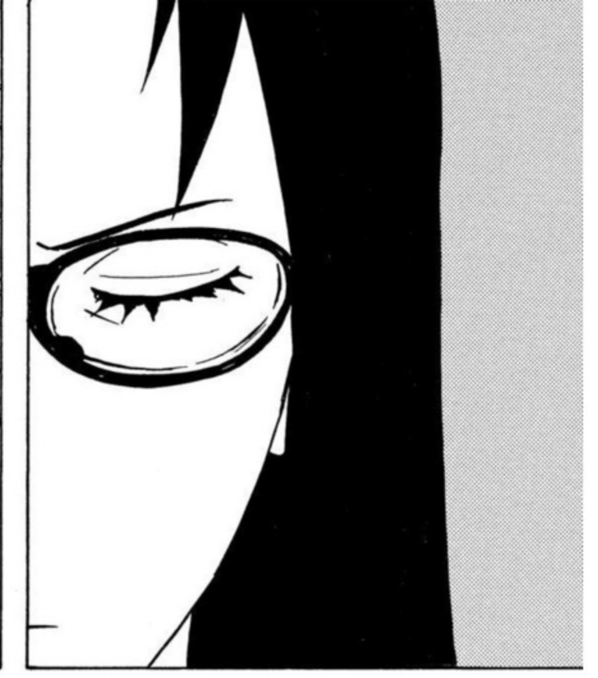

ALL THE WARDENS ARE DEAD...
AND THE INMATES HAVE ALL BROKEN OUT.


AT THIS RATE, WE CAN'T TELL WHICH ONE IS JUGO...
EH, SASUKE?

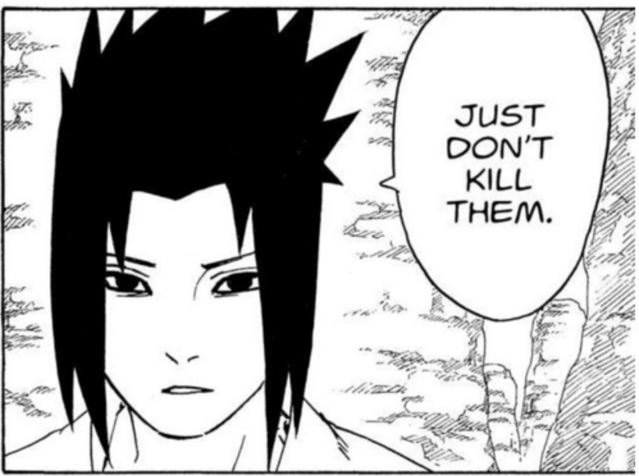

KARIN, IS JUGO THERE?
EVERY-ONE JUST SHUT UP... GIVE ME A SEC!
FWP







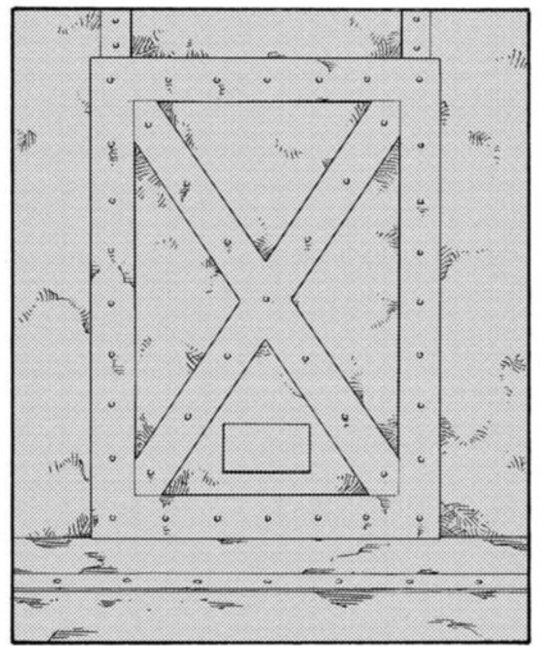
HUMPH... HE'S NOT AMONG THEM...
THEN WE CAN DO AS WE PLEASE, EH?


JUST DON'T KILL THEM.

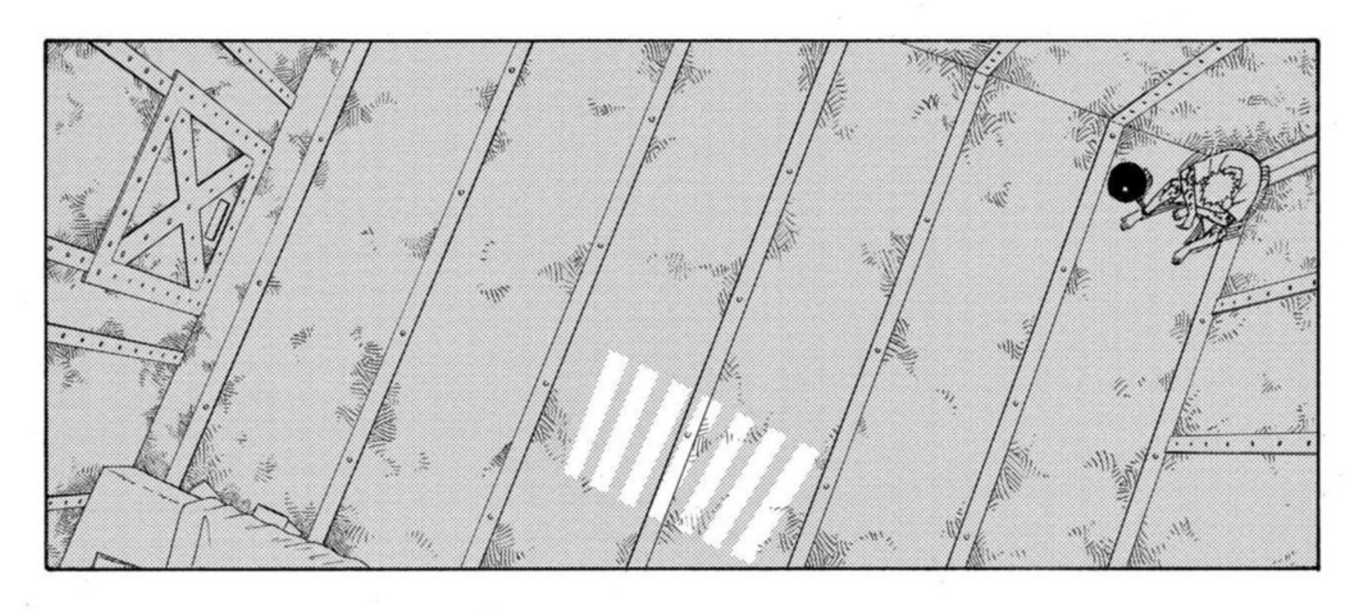

RIGHT ...
YOU REALLY ARE OF KONOHA...
YOU SHOULDA KILLED THAT LAST GUY TOO... YOU'RE SOFT.
KASHINK


LET'S GO.
KLIK...


READ THIS WAY



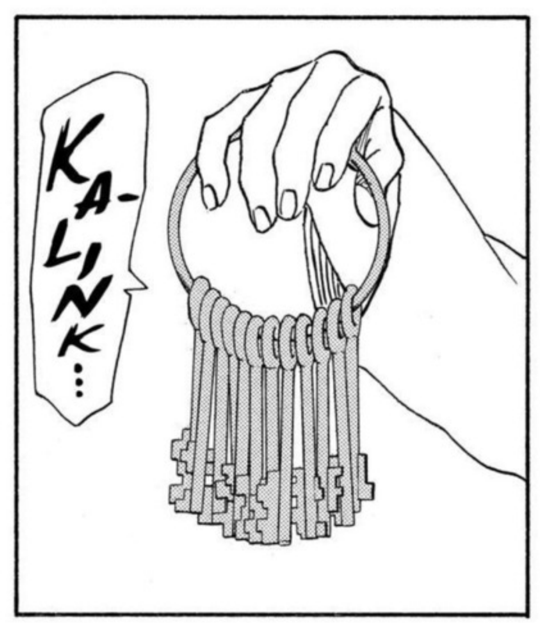

WOMAN ...
IF A WOMAN COMES IN, I'LL KILL HER...
KILL...



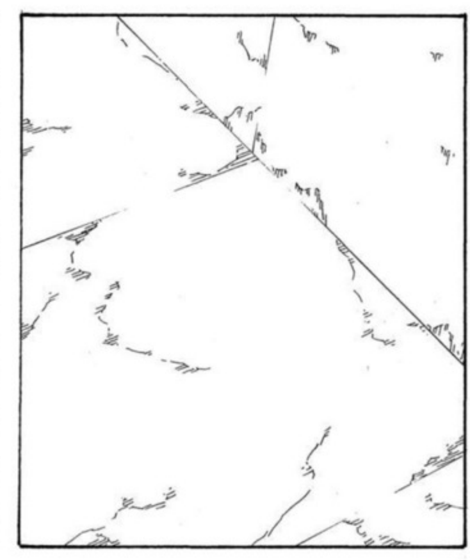

UNH...
YOU'RE... STRONG ...
SHWOOO...

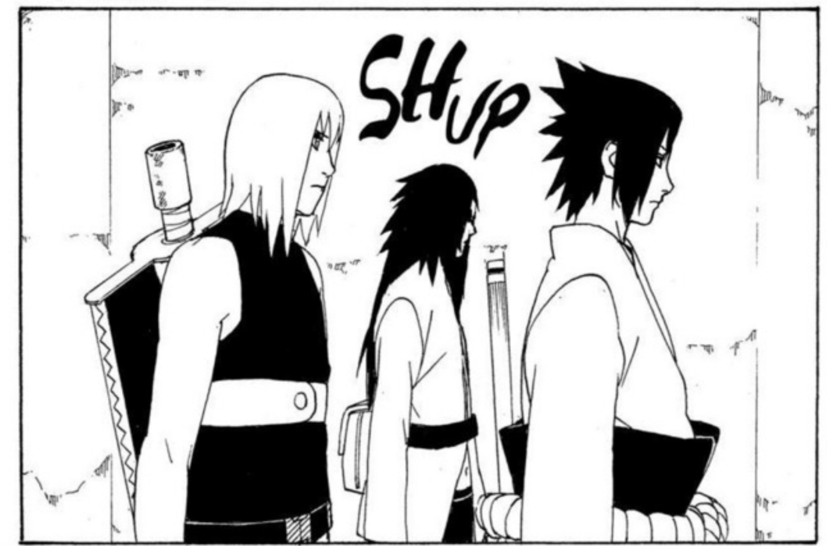
PHEW...



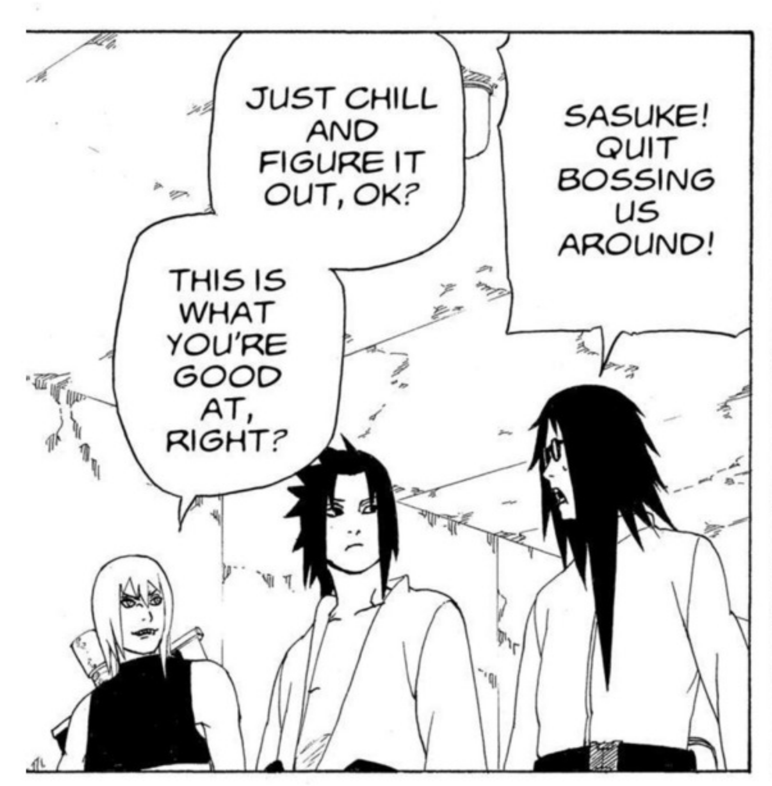



READ
THIS
WAY




SHUP


WHICH WAY IS IT, KARIN? LEAD ON.

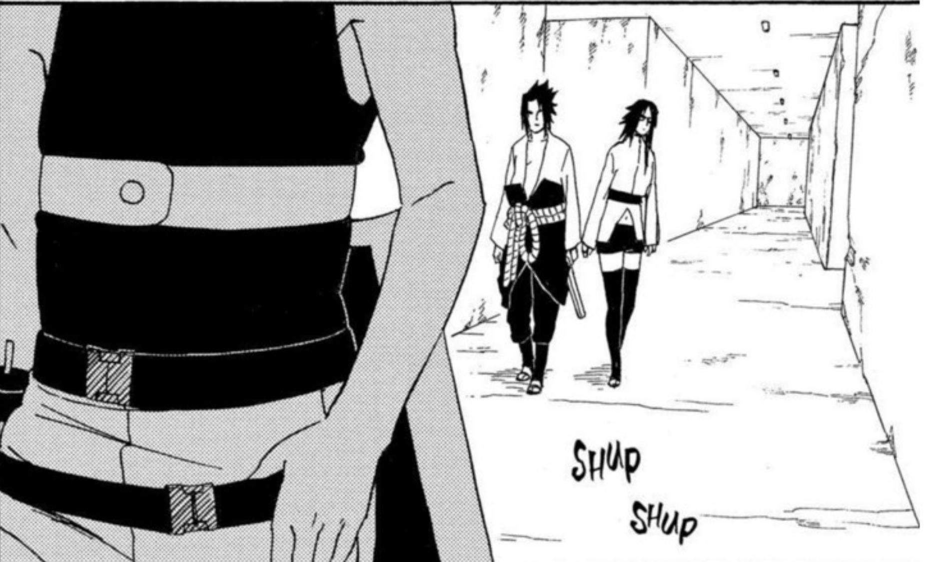

SASUKE! QUIT BOSSING US AROUND!
JUST CHILL AND FIGURE IT OUT, OK?
THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE GOOD AT, RIGHT?


...

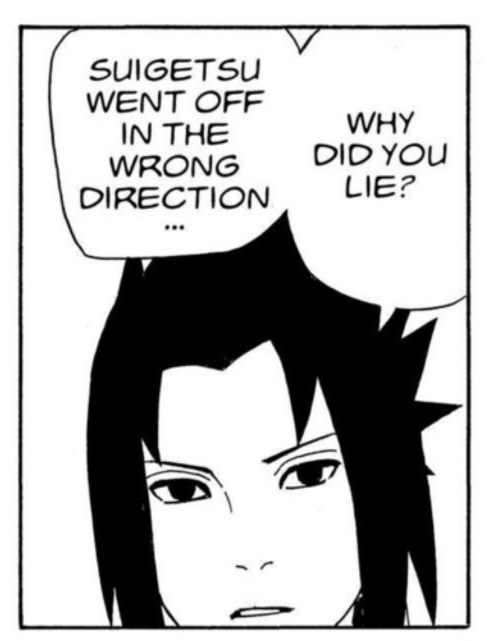

THAT WAY.


PHEW...
SHUP...


FFT
?!

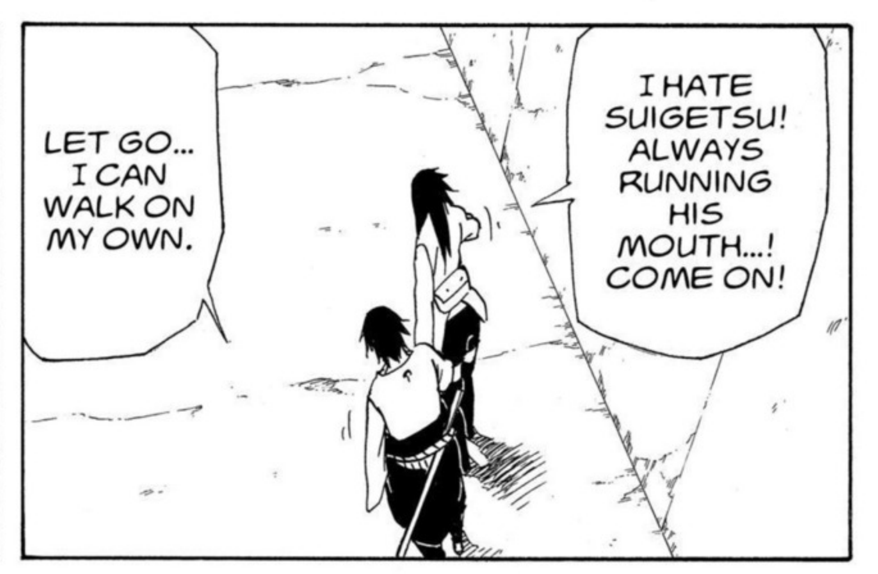

SHUP
SHUP


WHAT IS IT?
THAP


WHY DID YOU LIE?
SUIGETSU WENT OFF IN THE WRONG DIRECTION ...

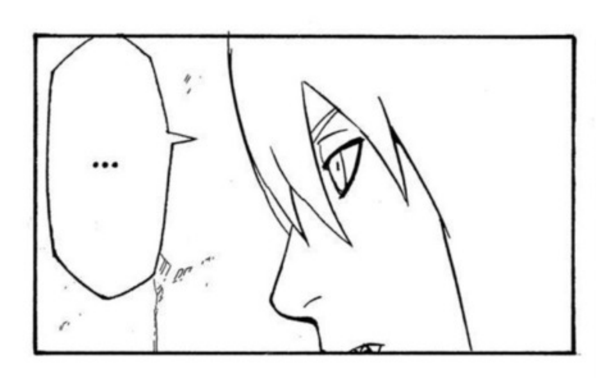

IT'S ACTUALLY THIS WAY.
NOW COME ON, SASUKE!


READ
THIS
WAY

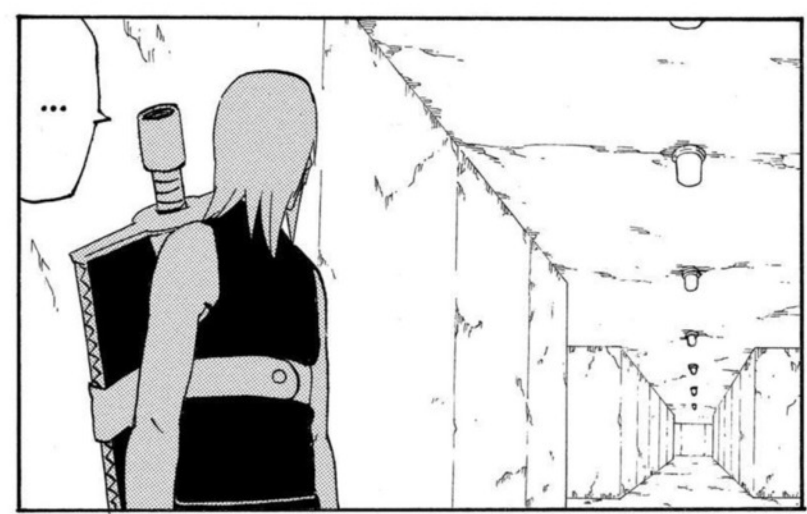

I HATE SUIGETSU! ALWAYS RUNNING HIS MOUTH...! COME ON!
LET GO... I CAN WALK ON MY OWN.

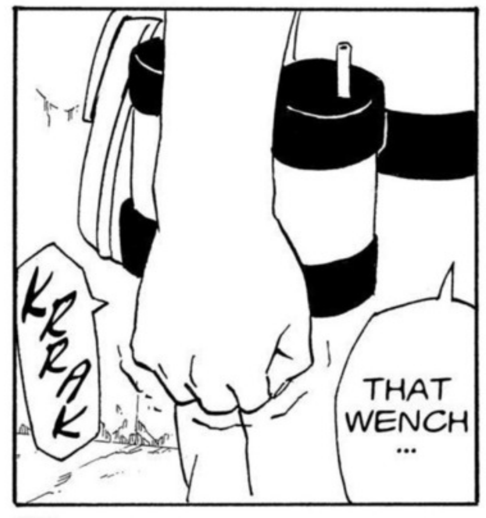

YOU KNOW...

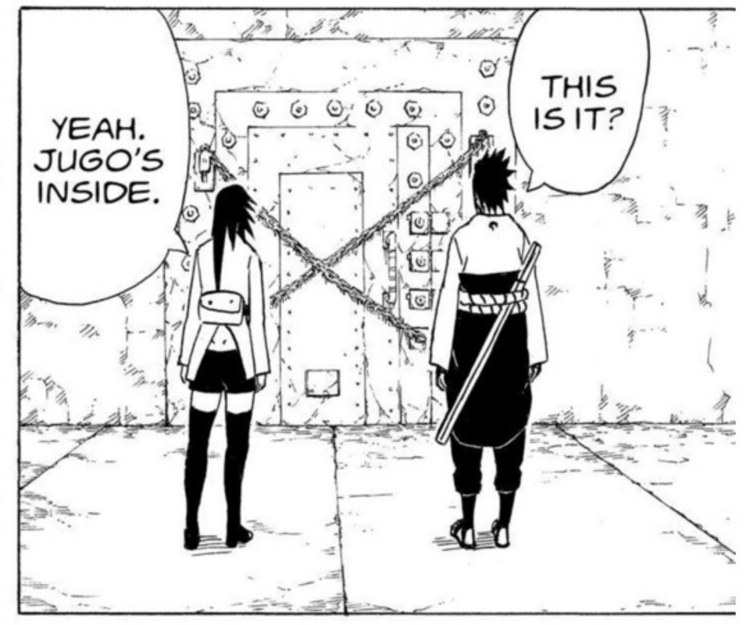

I DIDN'T RE-ALIZE THAT THE CURSE MARK COULD TRANSFORM ONE'S BODY TO SUCH A GROTESQUE DEGREE...
SASUKE ...
DOES THE CURSE MARK CHANGE YOU LIKE THAT TOO?

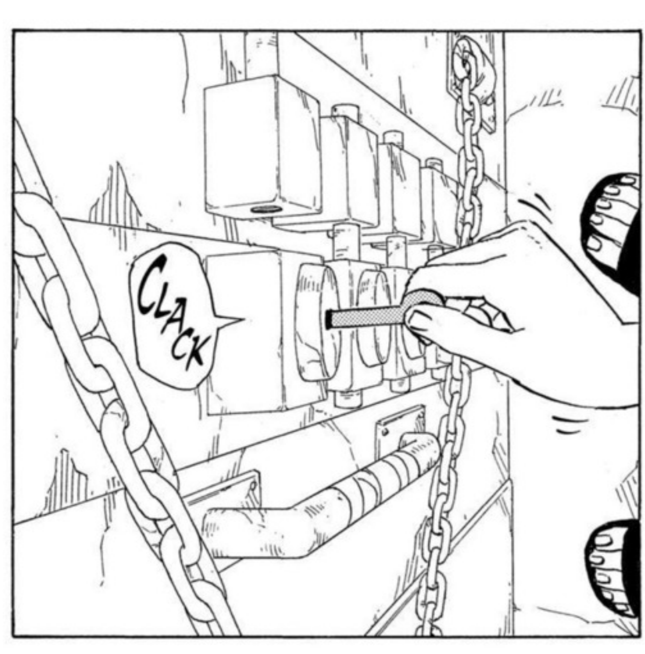

...


...SASUKE ...?


...


THAT WENCH ...
KRRAK

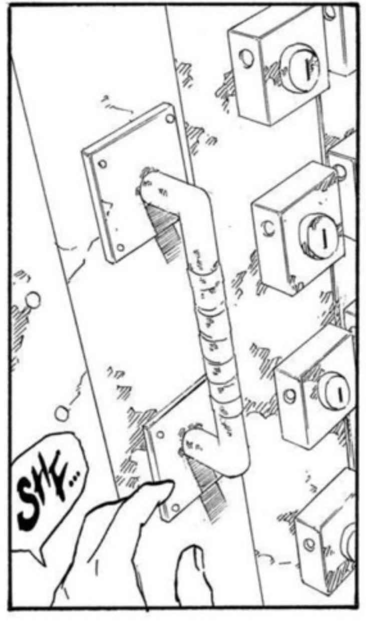

THIS IS IT?
YEAH. JUGO'S INSIDE.

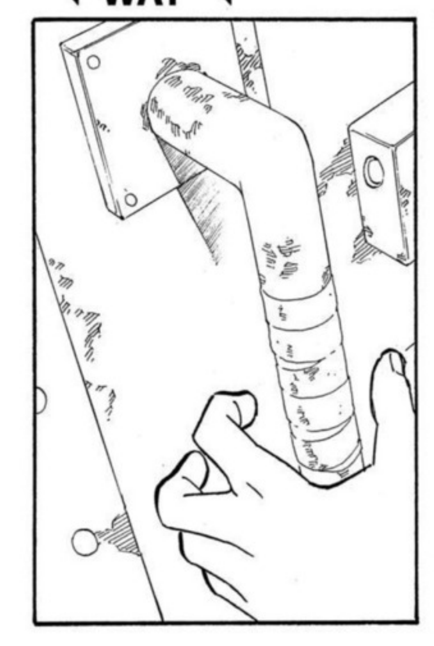

CLACK


MUTTER
SOME-ONE'S HERE... NOW...
MUTTER
...WHICH IS IT?

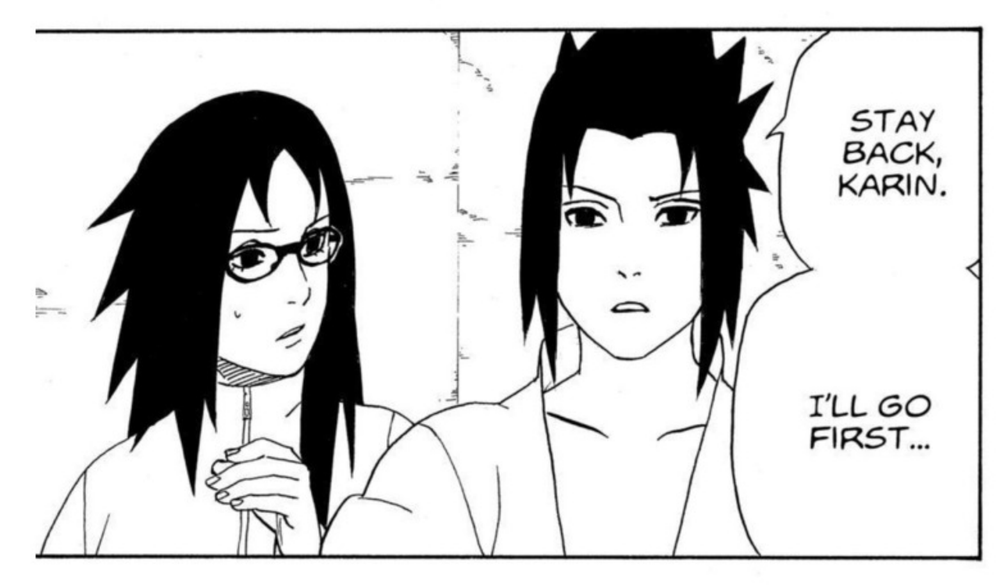
READ THIS WAY

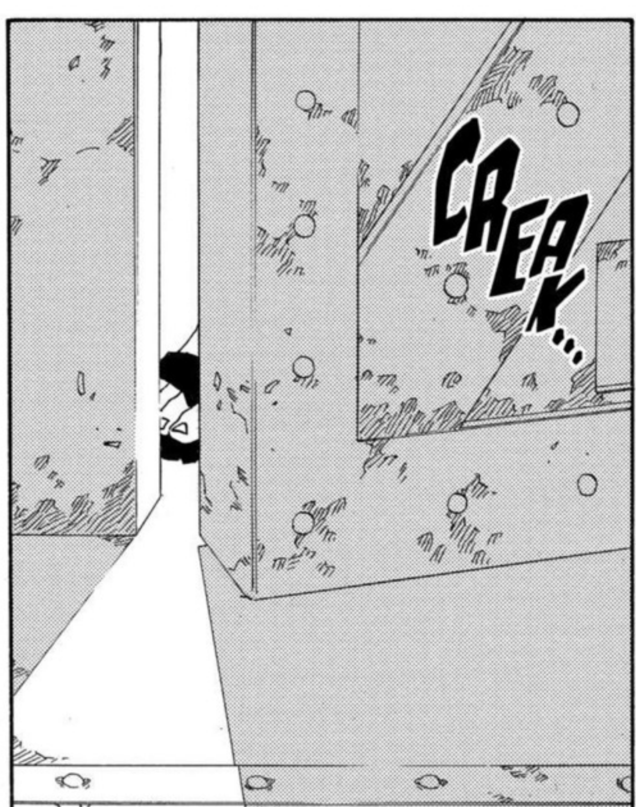










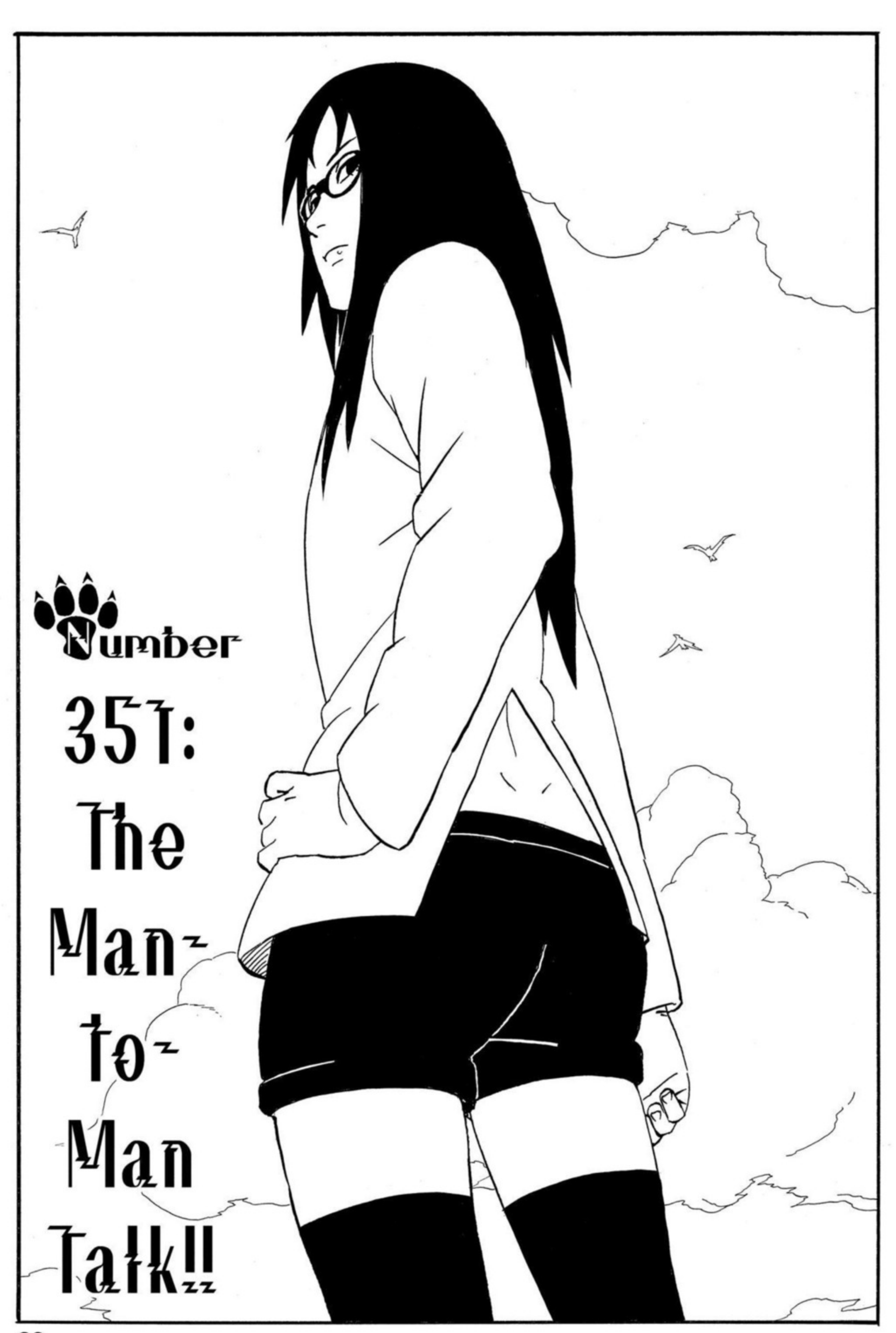


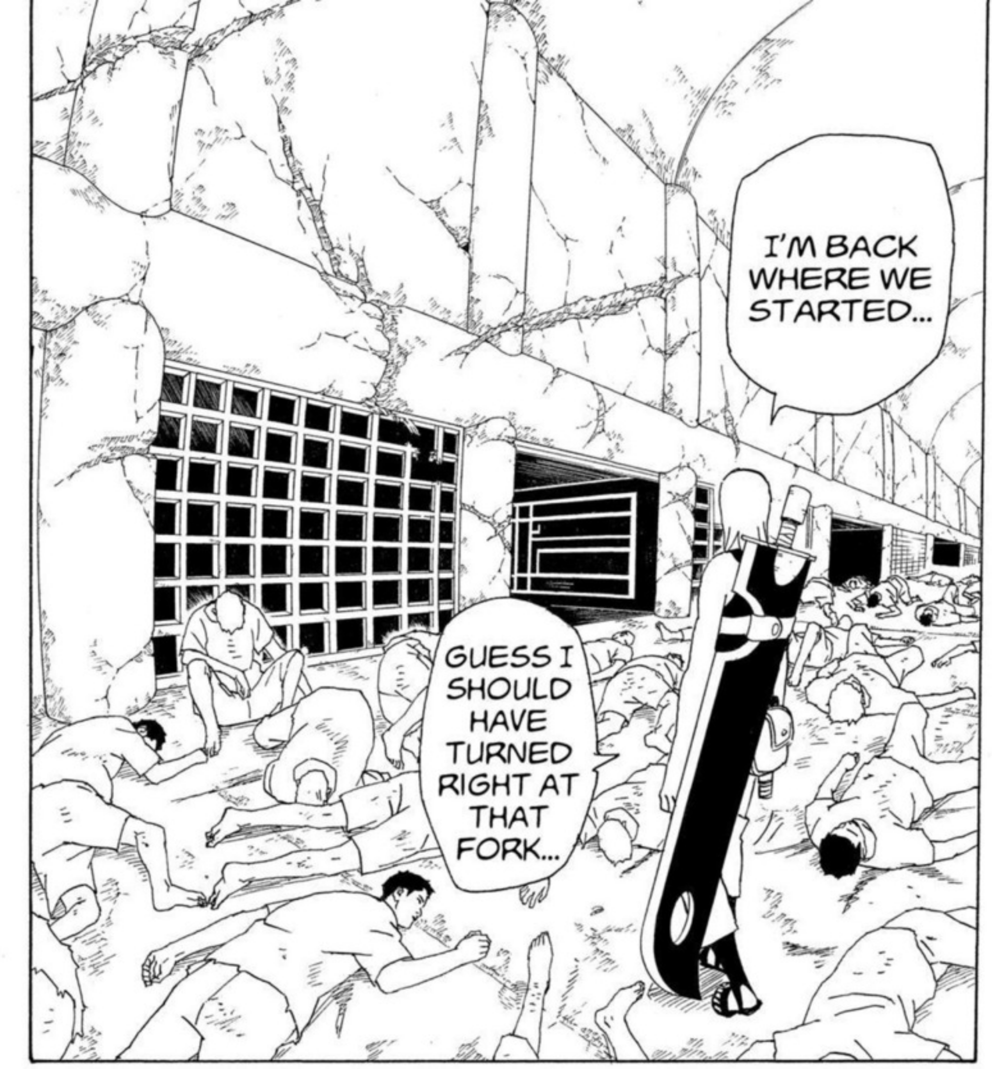


BINGO!
YOU'RE
DEAD!!


WHUS
SH
HERE HE COMES!
...!
SCRUNCH


NARUTO


Number
351:
The
Man-
to-
Man
Talk!!


I'M BACK WHERE WE STARTED...
GUESS I SHOULD HAVE TURNED RIGHT AT THAT FORK...


...HUH?


WE'RE HERE FOR JUGO.
WE WANT HIM TO JOIN US...


WH-WHY... WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE...?

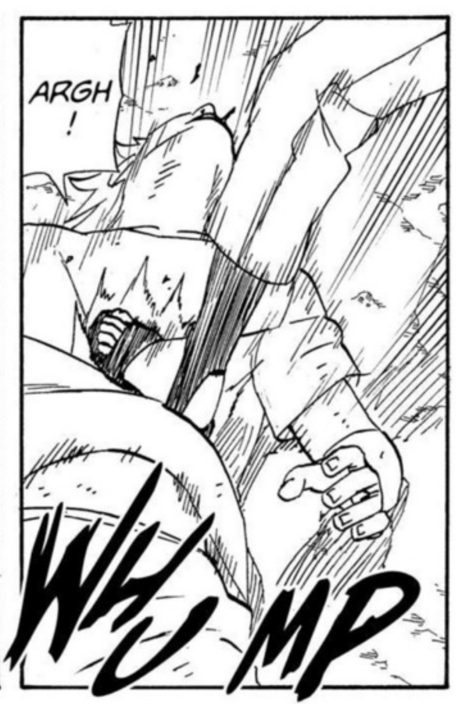

...?


HEH HEH HEH...
...YOU HAVE NO IDEA... WHAT YOU'RE IN FOR ...*UNNH*...


READ
THIS
WAY


IF YOU LET SOMEONE LIKE HIM LOOSE IN THIS WORLD...
OH, BELIEVE ME. I KNOW.
BUT I'LL MAKE HIM SEE REASON... BY FORCE, IF NECES-SARY...


HEH HEH HEH... HOWEVER STRONG YOU MAY BE... YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR HIM...

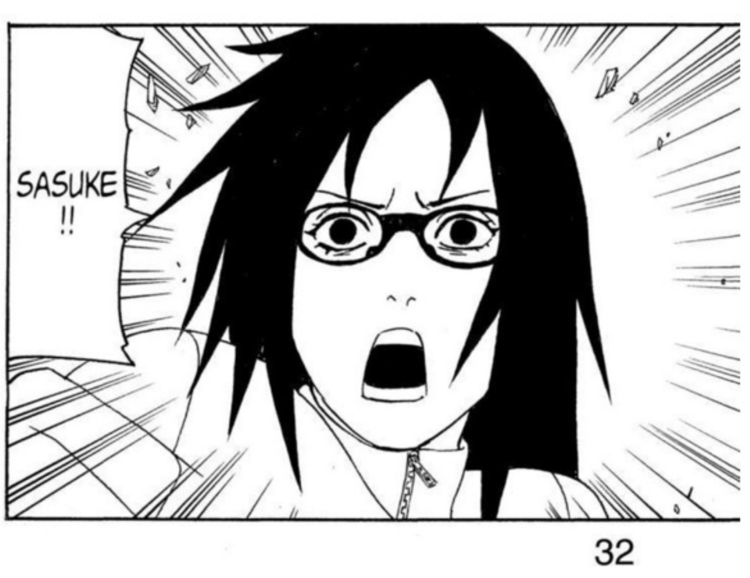

ARGH!
WHUMP


YOU KNOW... IF IT WEREN'T FOR SASUKE'S ORDERS...
...YOU'D BE DEAD NOW.


HEH HEH... DEAD!! YOU'RE ALL DEAD!!!


...I THINK HE'LL FORGIVE ME...
KLAK
...JUST THIS ONCE...


THWACK


SASUKE!!


GWA-HA HA HA HA!!

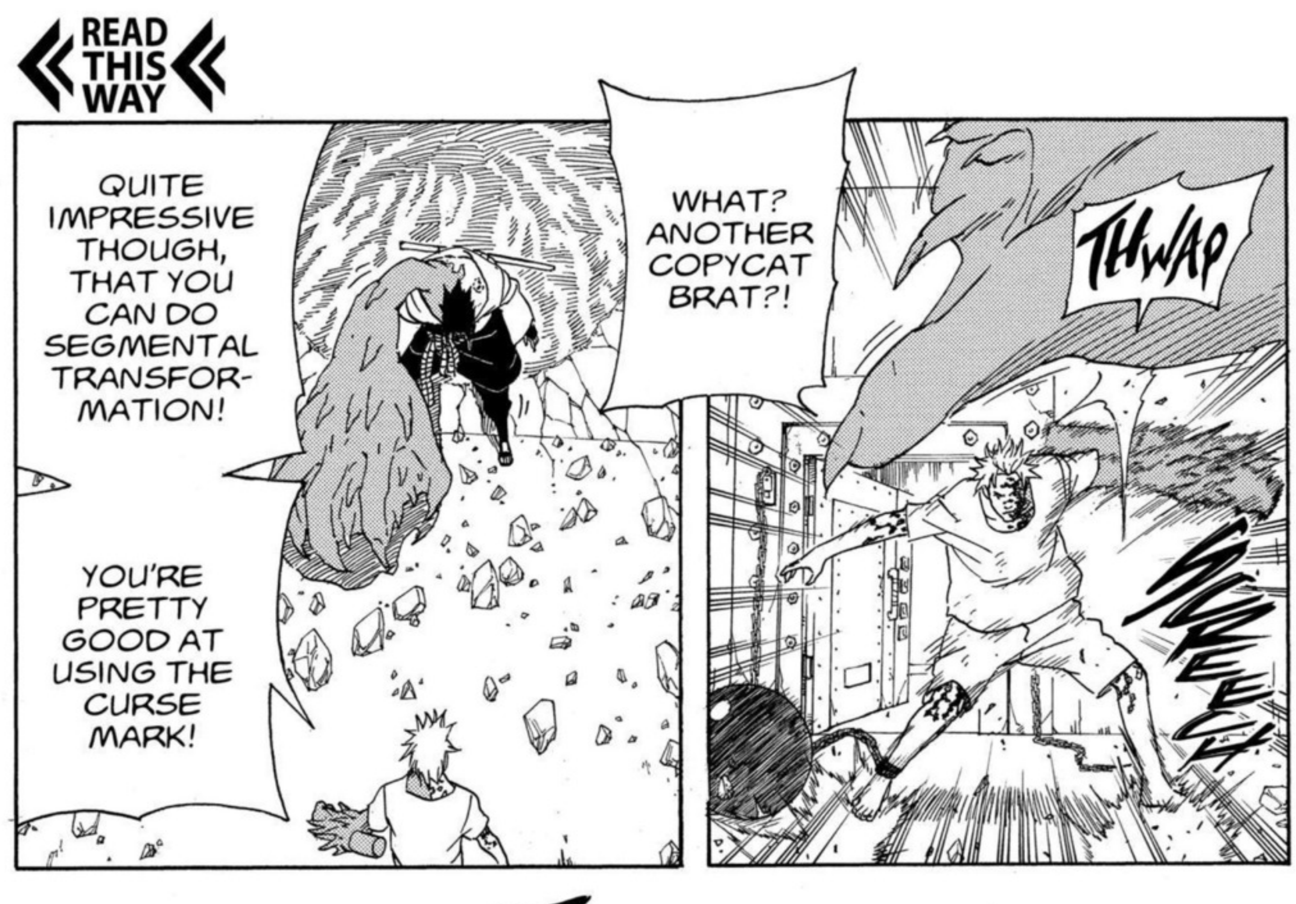

READ
THIS
WAY

NOT JUST YET!!
VWWW...
VWW
FOOOM
!
SASUKE'S CHAKRA...!

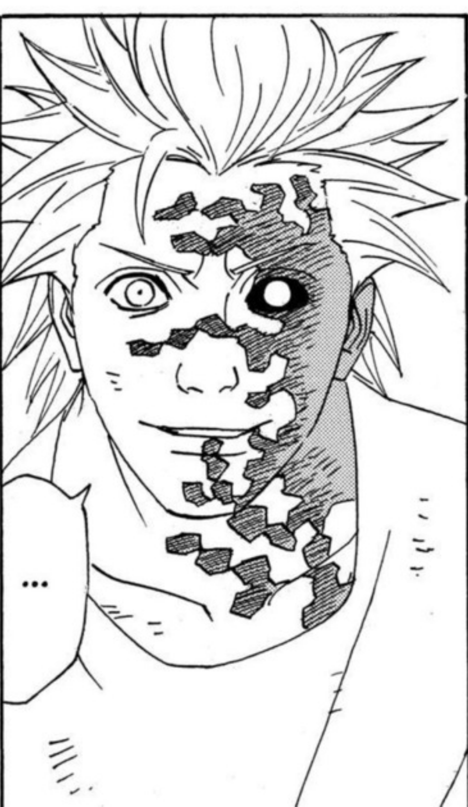

...TRANS-
FORMED!


!
FAP...

READ THIS WAY





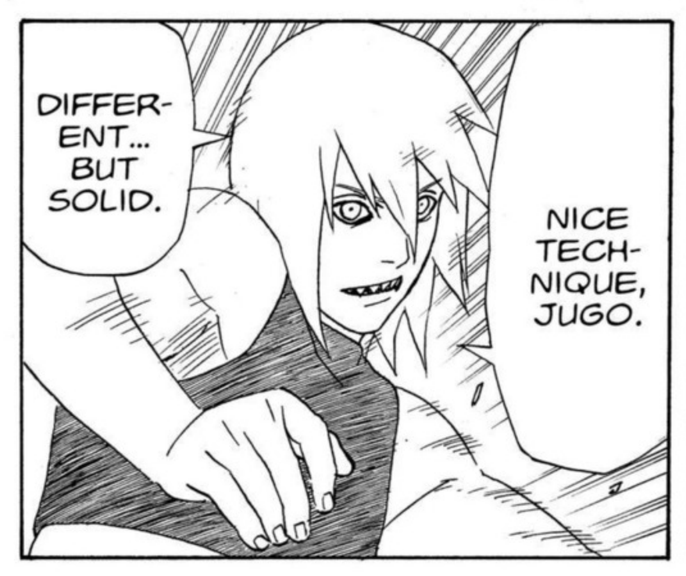




KLANG

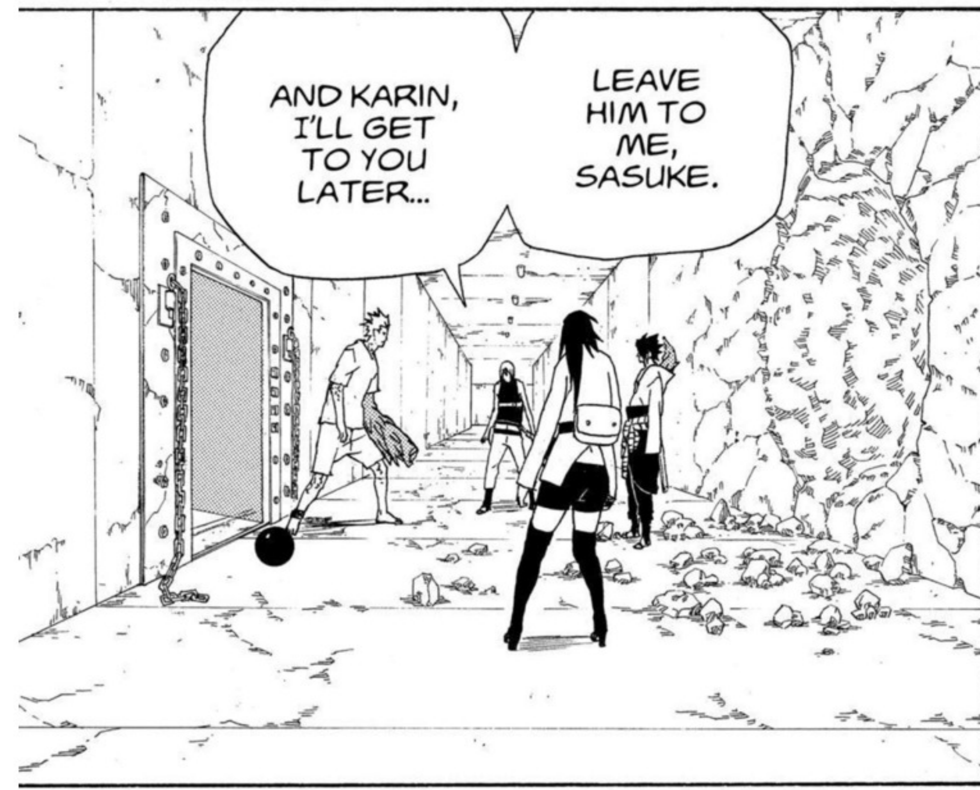
WHUMP






READ THIS WAY


...?


LEAVE HIM TO ME, SASUKE.
AND KARIN, I'LL GET TO YOU LATER...


GREAT ...


STOP IT, SUIGETSU. WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT.
LET ME TALK TO HIM.
VWW


HE'S NOT THE TYPE THAT LISTENS TO WORDS.
THE ONLY LANGUAGE HE UNDER-STANDS IS FORCE...


THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'RE SUIGETSU.
I REMEMBER YOU NOW!
VWW


KLA
NG
HAAAH!!
SCREECH

STOP IT! BOTH OF YOU!

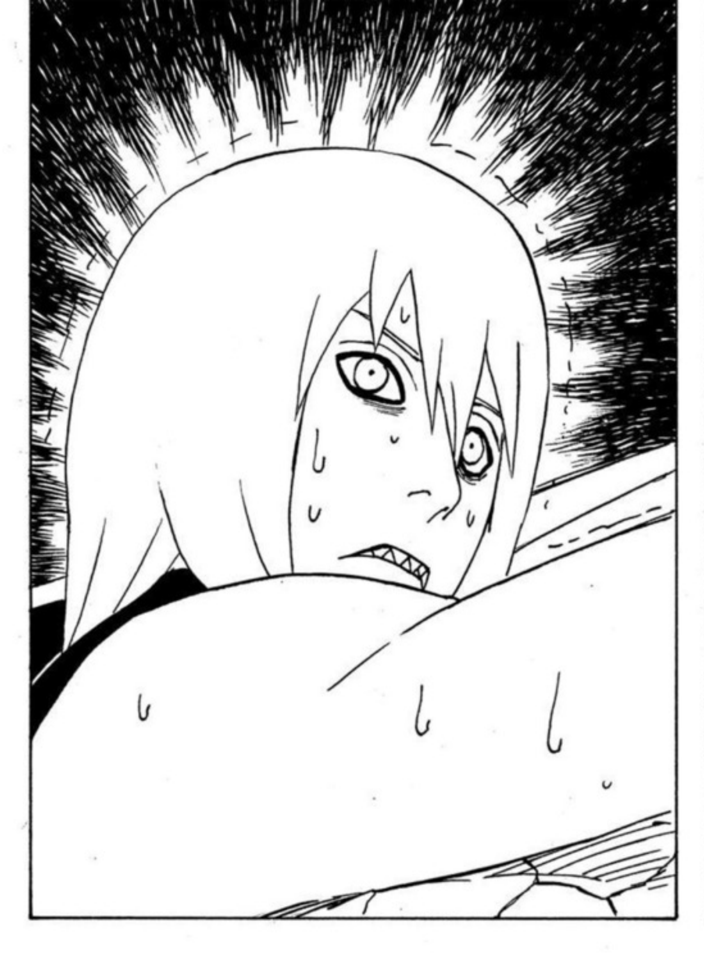
HAAAH!!

NO... LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER...





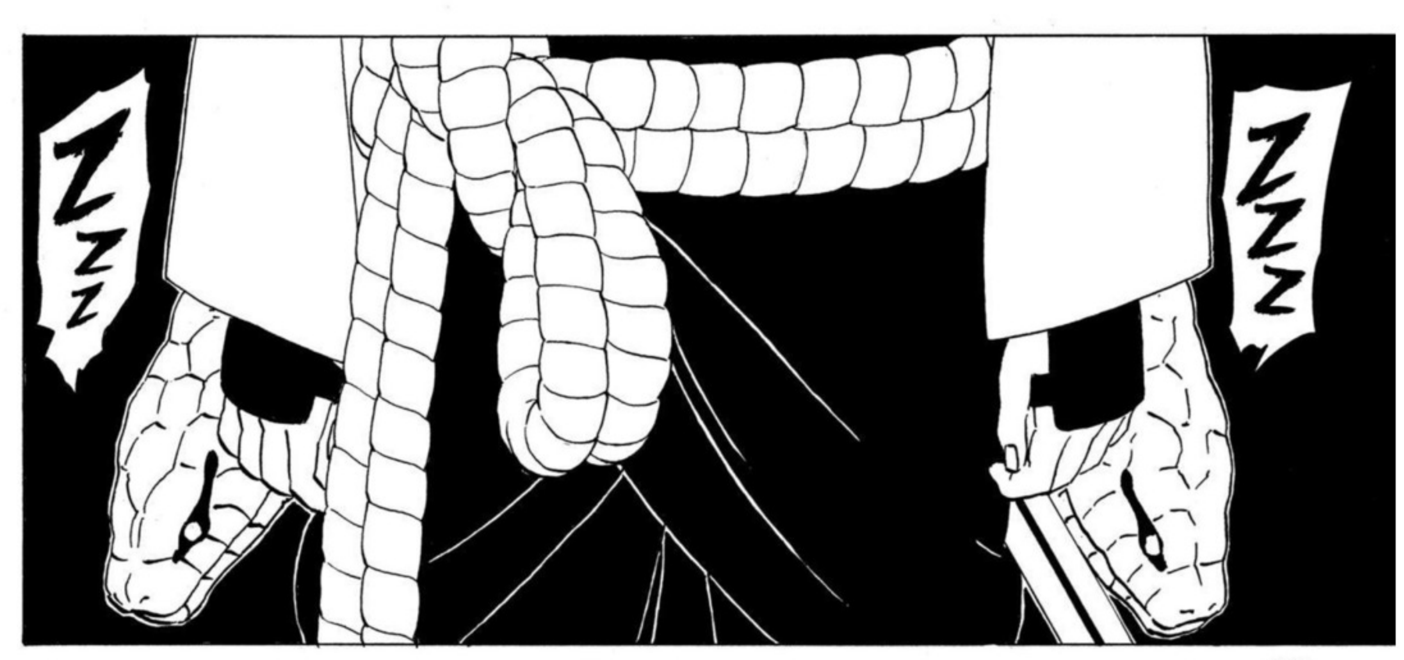

!
!
ZZZZZZ...
DO YOU BOTH...
...WANT ME TO KILL YOU?



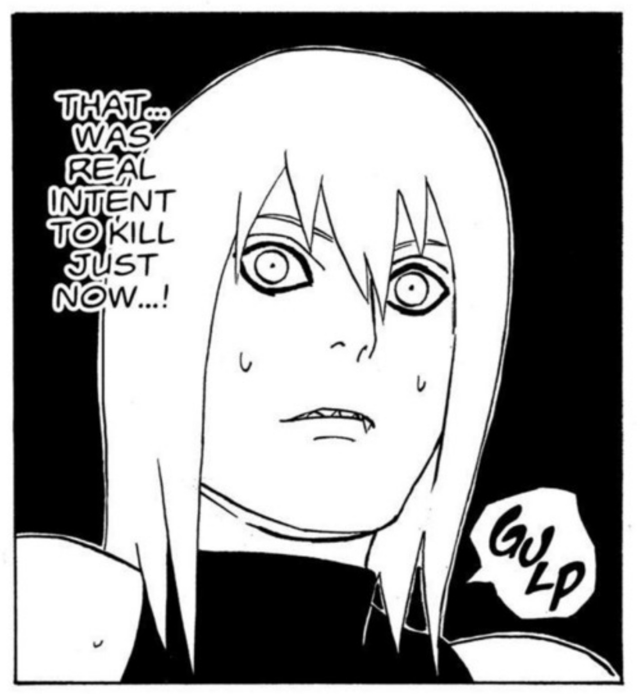




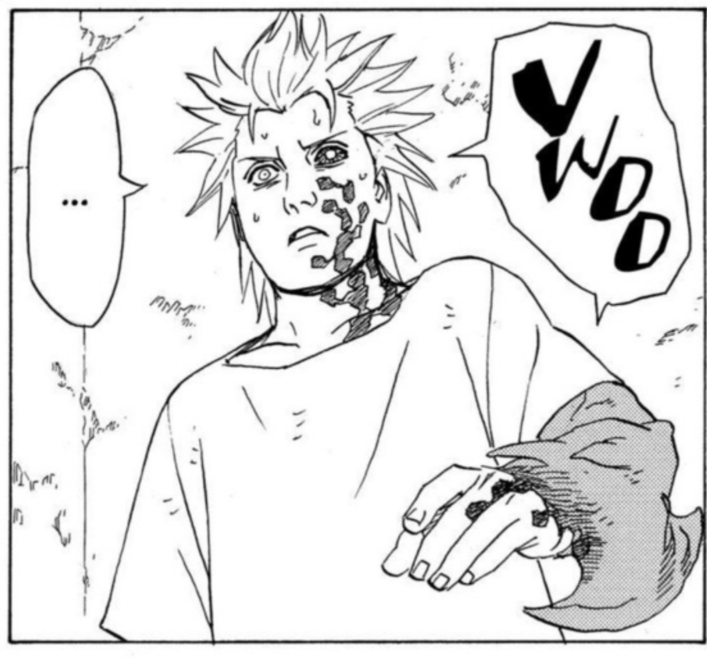


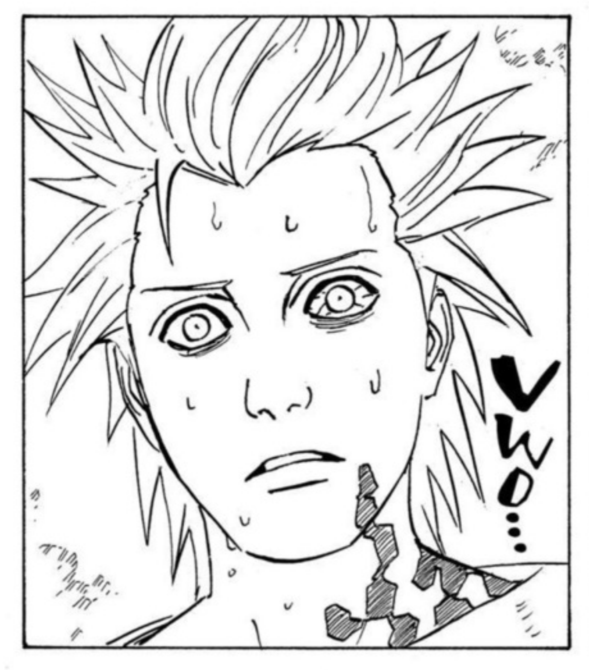

ZZZ
ZZZ

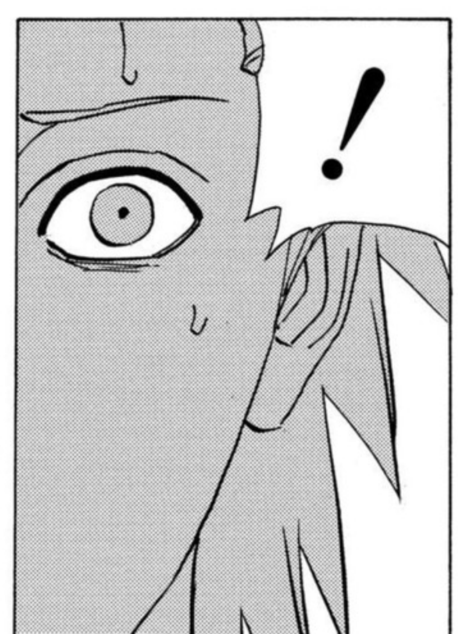

READ
THIS
WAY


THAT... WAS REAL INTENT TO KILL JUST NOW...!
GULP


TH-THAT WAS IN-CREDIBLE...
OH, SASUKE...!

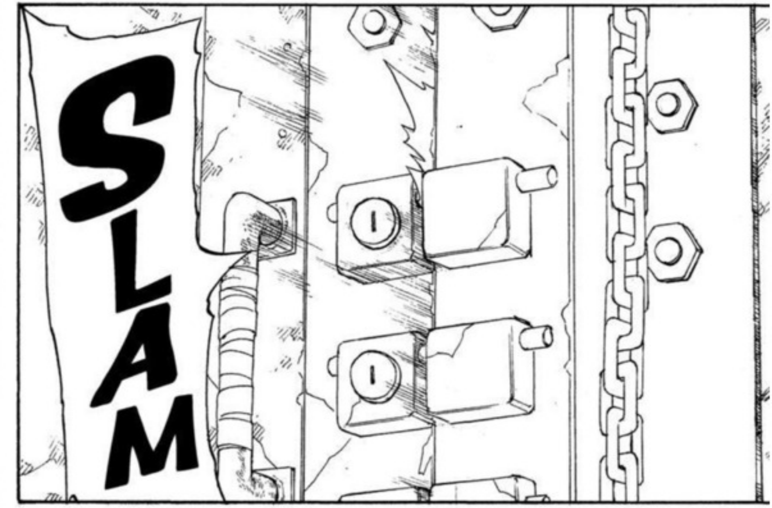

VWOO
...

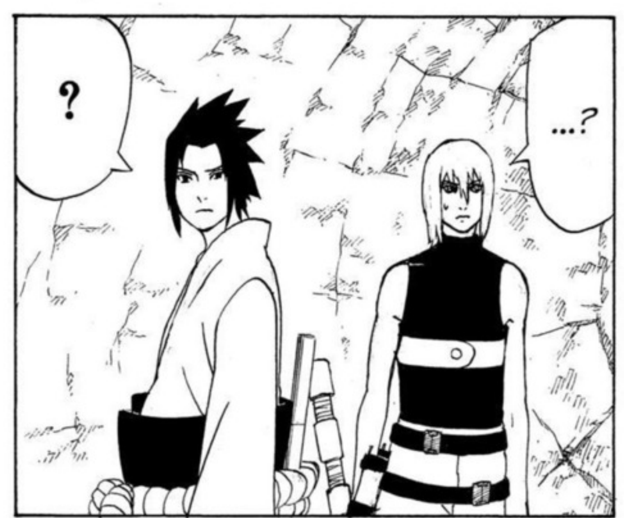

VWO...


!


AAH...
SHF
SHF

WAAAAAAAH!!
GG...
WHSSH









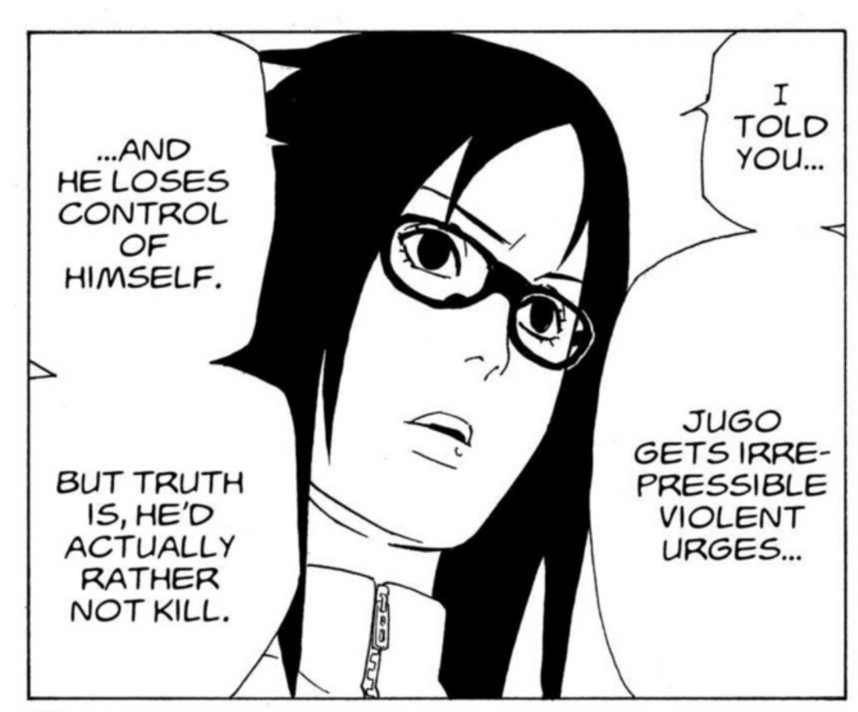

READ
THIS
WAY


SASUKE REALLY FREAKED HIM OUT.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT.

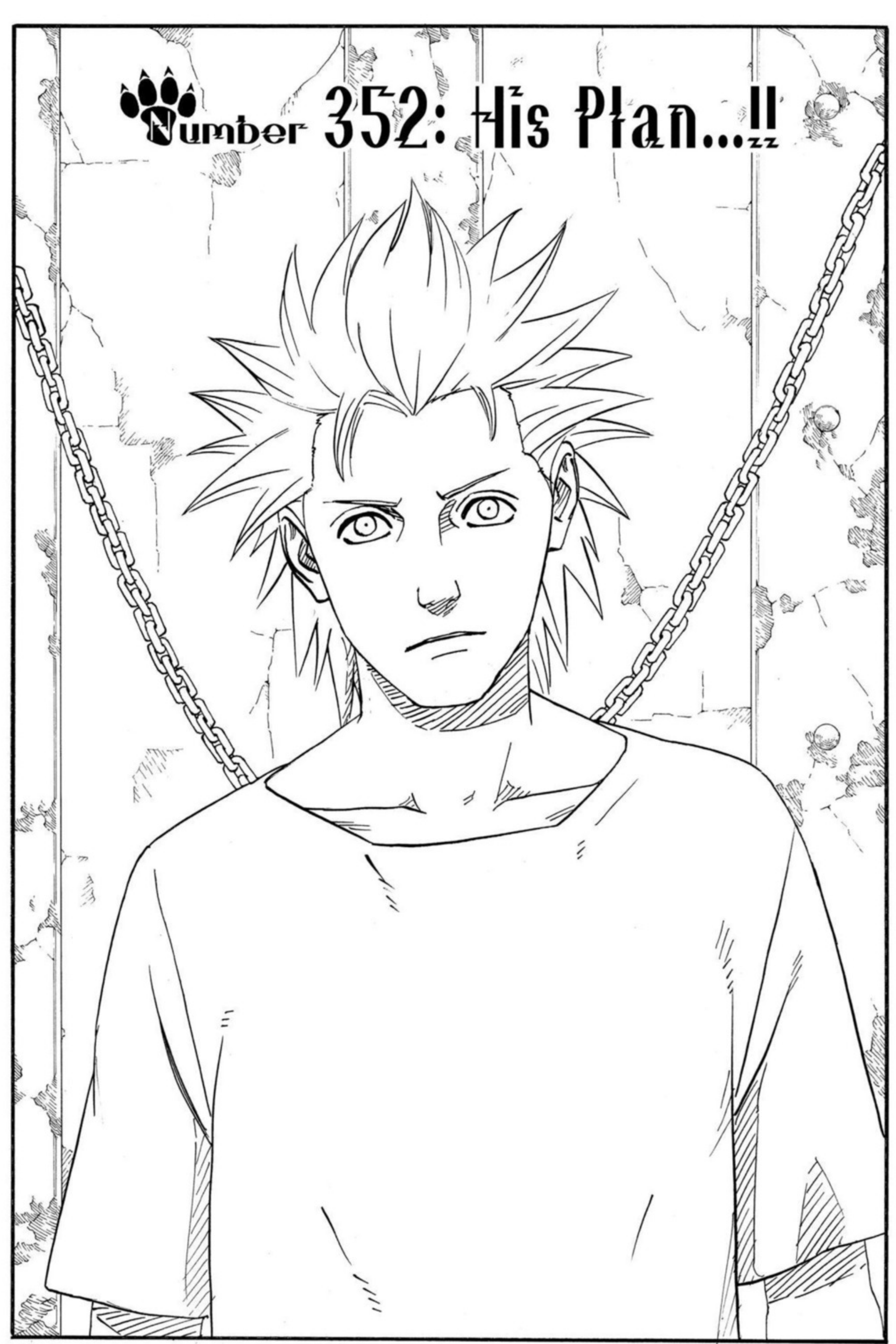

...?


I DON'T WANNA KILL ANY MORE PEOPLE!
I DON'T WANNA GO OUTSIDE... PLEASE JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!


WHAT...?
WOW. SCHIZO-PHRENIA ...


I TOLD YOU...
JUGO GETS IRRE-PRESSIBLE VIOLENT URGES...
...AND HE LOSES CONTROL OF HIMSELF.
BUT TRUTH IS, HE'D ACTUALLY RATHER NOT KILL.

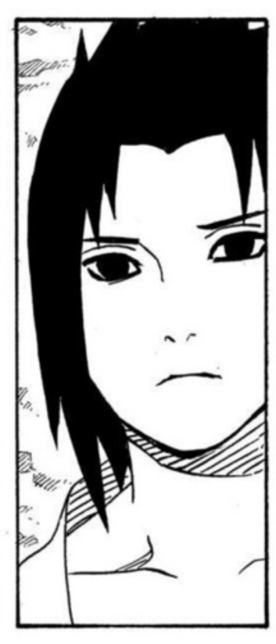

NARUTO

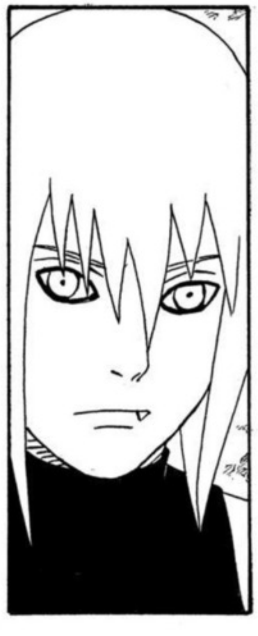

Number 352: His Plan...!!

I DON'T KNOW WHEN THE URGE TO KILL WILL STRIKE AGAIN!
SO, PLEASE! JUST HURRY UP AND LOCK THE DOOR!


I DON'T THINK JUGO'S GOING TO WORK OUT, SASUKE...
WE'LL CON-STANTLY HAVE TO WATCH OUR BACKS AROUND HIM.


WHO **ARE** YOU PEOPLE ANYWAY??
WHY WON'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE??





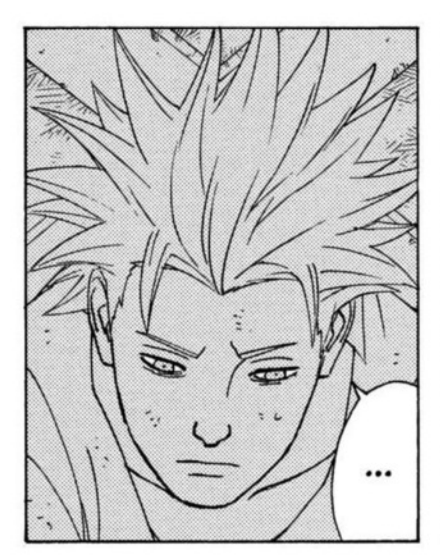


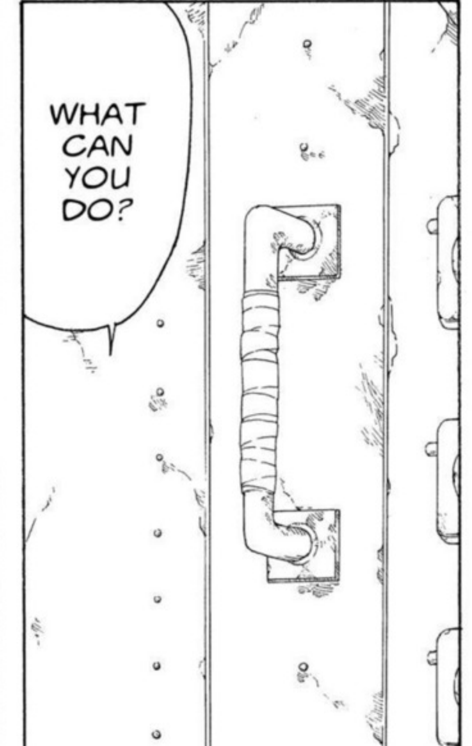

READ THIS WAY


OROCHI-MARU'S DEAD.
THIS HIDEOUT'S BEEN DESTROYED TOO.
YOU'LL BE DONE FOR IF YOU STAY HERE.
SHUP


FINE BY ME!
I'VE GOT ENOUGH BLOOD ON MY HANDS!

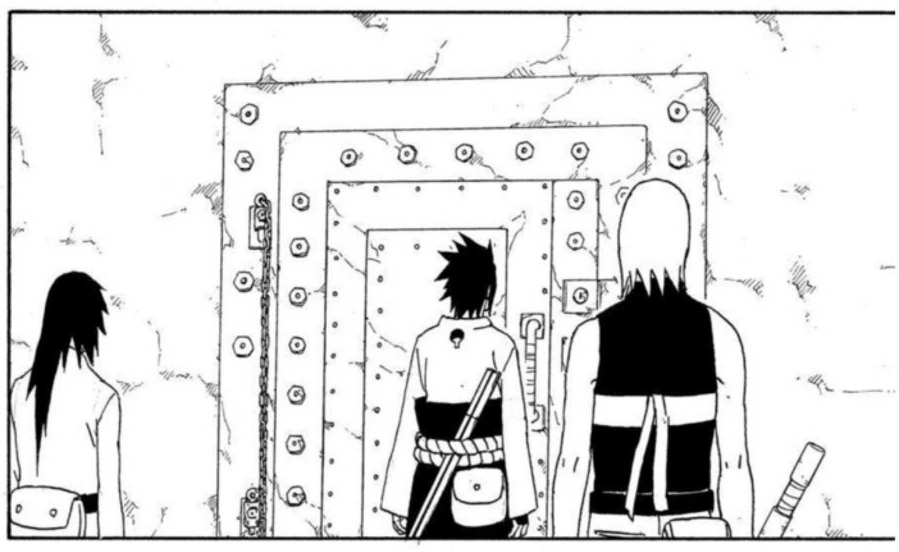

...DON'T WORRY...
I'LL BE YOUR CAGE.
I'LL STOP YOU.


...


WHAT CAN YOU DO?

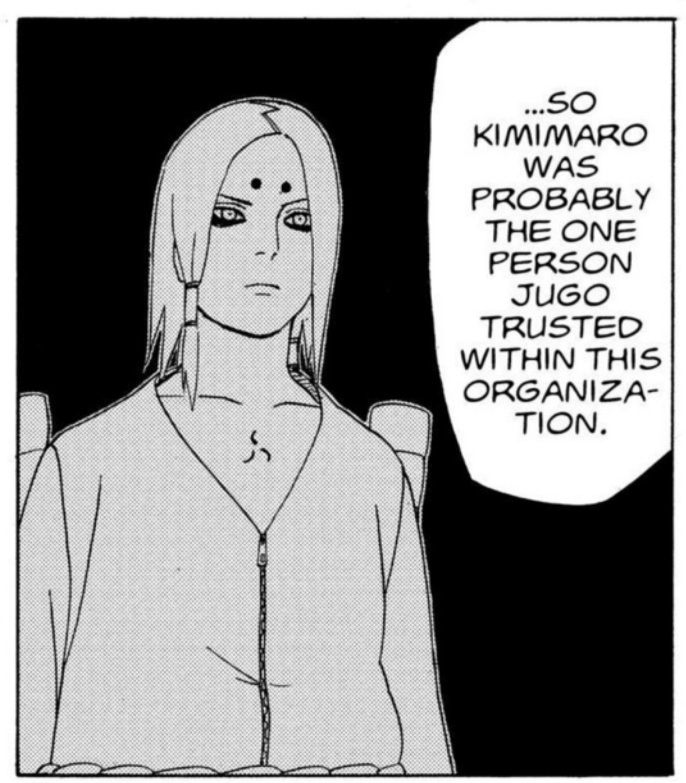

THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP MY URGES...


...IS KIMIMARO.
IF KIMIMARO'S NOT HERE, I CAN'T GO OUTSIDE!

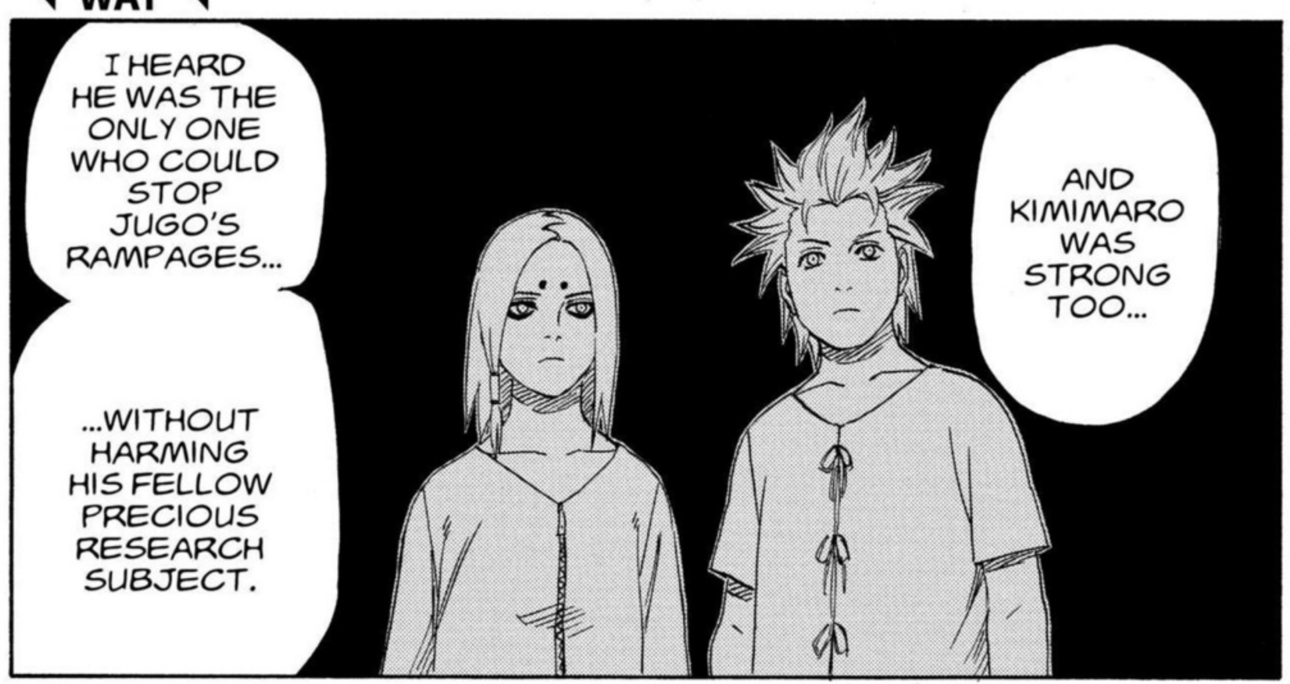



KIMI-MARO? YOU MEAN OF THE KAGUYA CLAN...?

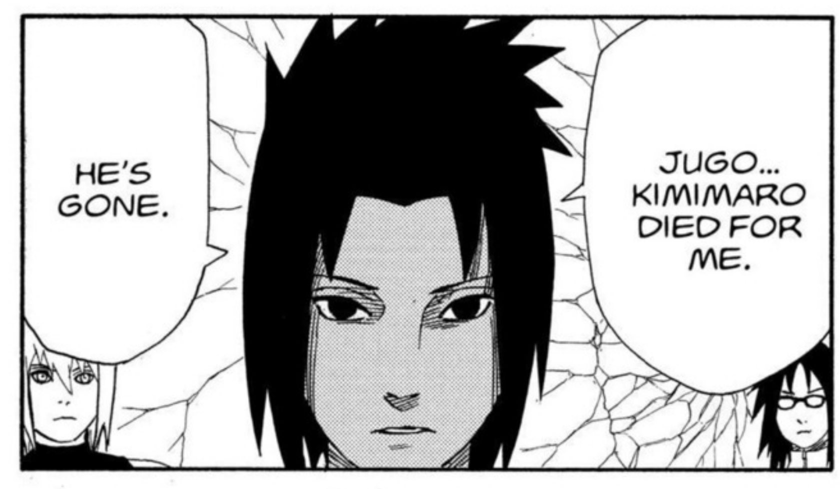

YEAH... JUGO AND KIMIMARO WERE OROCHIMARU'S FAVORITE LAB RATS.
THEY WERE BOTH IMPRISONED TOGETHER HERE FOR LIVE EXPERI-MENTATION...


...SO KIMIMARO WAS PROBABLY THE ONE PERSON JUGO TRUSTED WITHIN THIS ORGANIZA-TION.


READ THIS WAY


AND KIMIMARO WAS STRONG TOO...
I HEARD HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD STOP JUGO'S RAMPAGES...
...WITHOUT HARMING HIS FELLOW PRECIOUS RESEARCH SUBJECT.

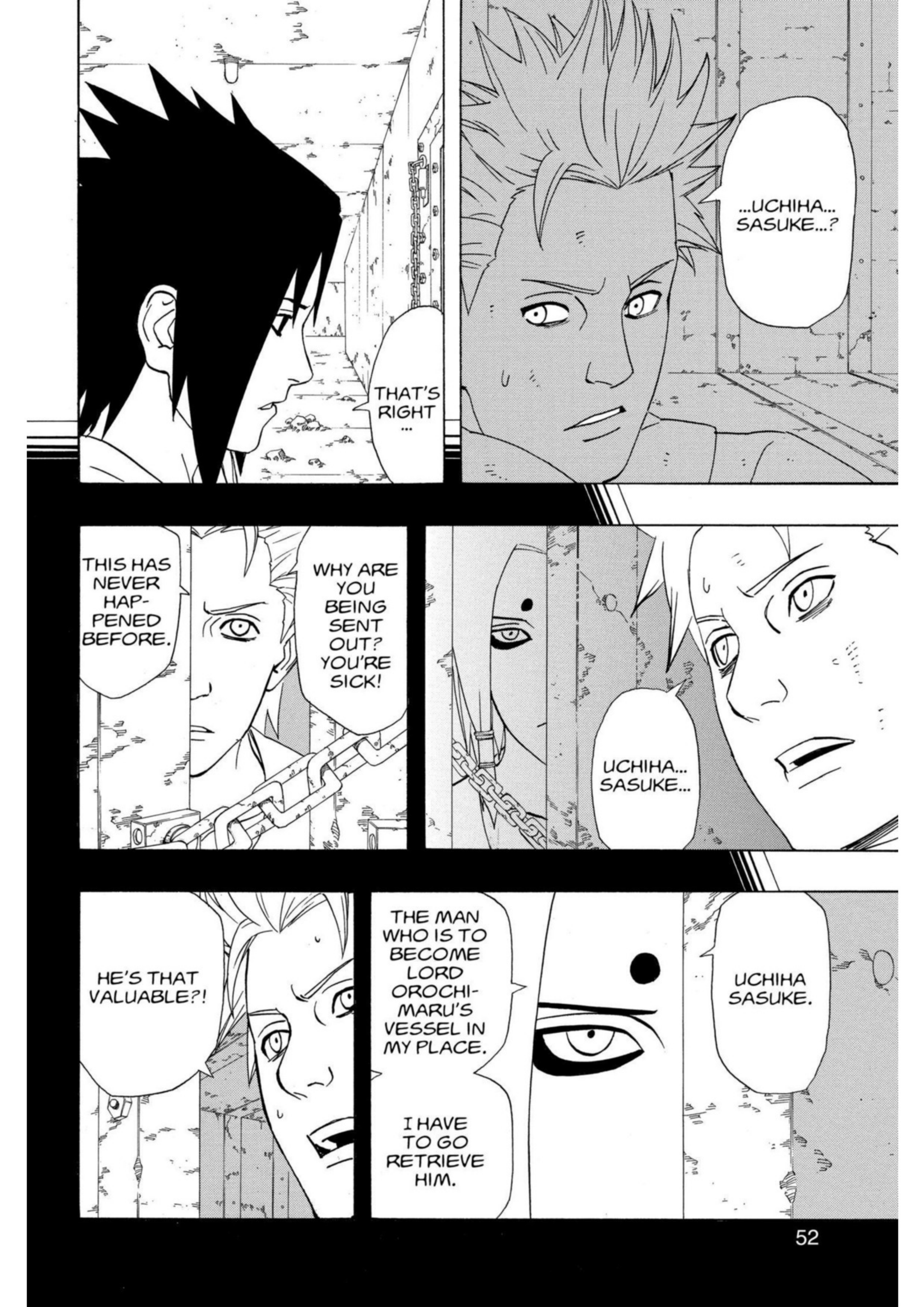

BUT I THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS...


JUGO... KIMIMARO DIED FOR ME.
HE'S GONE.


TWITCH


...


HE DIED FOR YOU...?!
THEN YOU'RE ...


...UCHIHA... SASUKE...?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
UCHIHA... SASUKE...
WHY ARE YOU BEING SENT OUT? YOU'RE SICK!
THIS HAS NEVER HAP-PENED BEFORE.
UCHIHA SASUKE.
THE MAN WHO IS TO BECOME LORD OROCHI-MARU'S VESSEL IN MY PLACE.
I HAVE TO GO RETRIEVE HIM.
HE'S THAT VALUABLE?!



HE AND I ARE THE ONLY ONES WORTHY OF BECOMING A VESSEL...

HE IS LIKE MY REINCARNATION.

I WILL SACRIFICE MYSELF TO RETRIEVE HIM.

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, JUGO.

YOUR STRENGTH HAS MADE ME STRONGER.

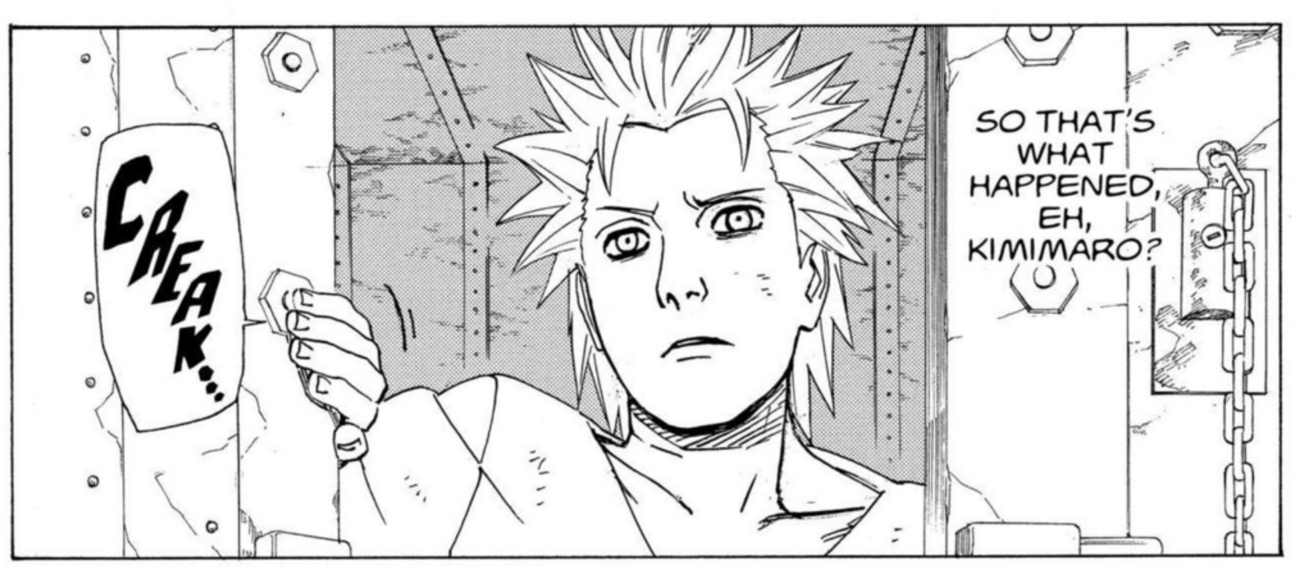
SO DON'T WORRY, MY FRIEND...

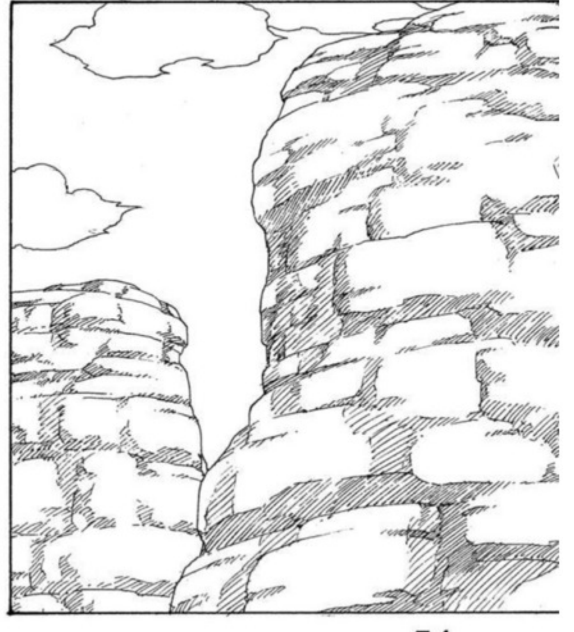
CREAK

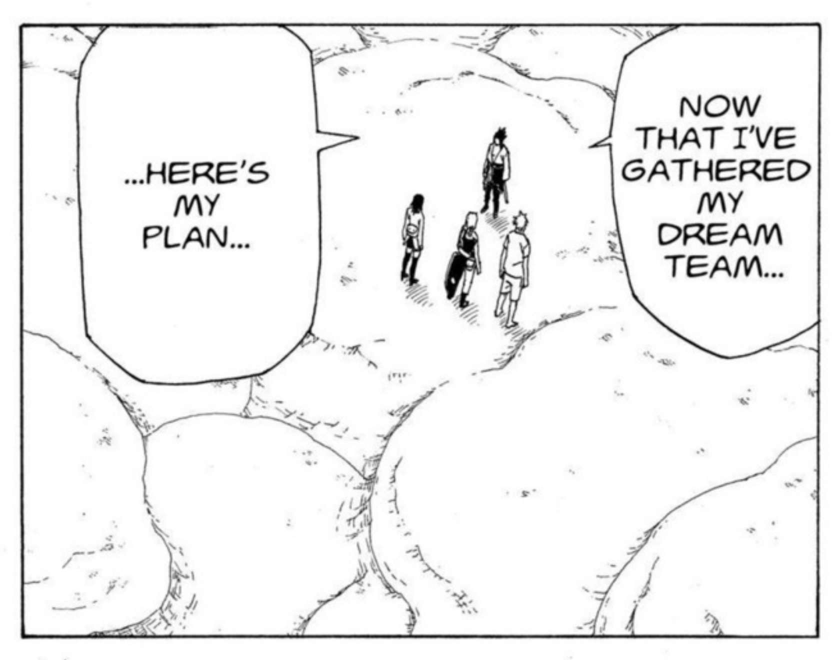
...I'LL BE BACK...

KLUNK

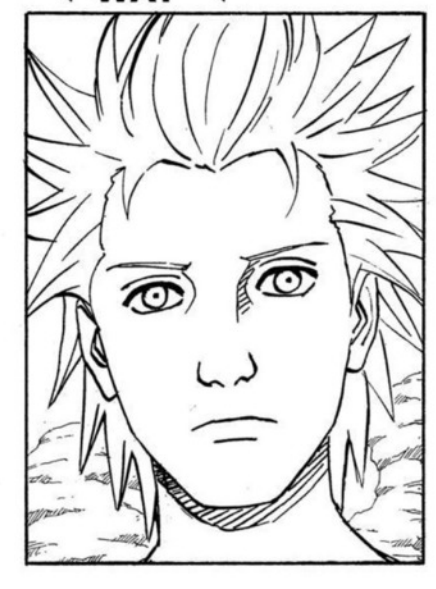
KLACK

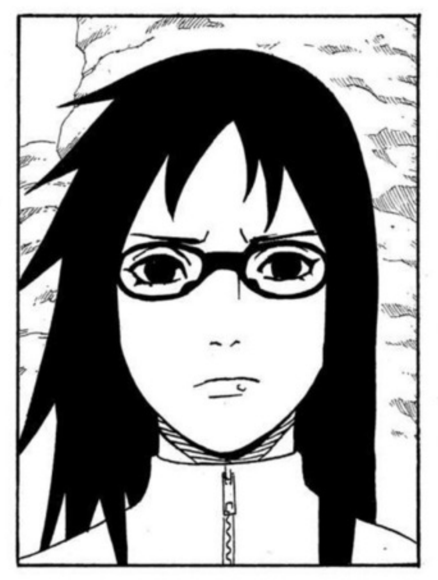

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED, EH, KIMIMARO?
CREAK...

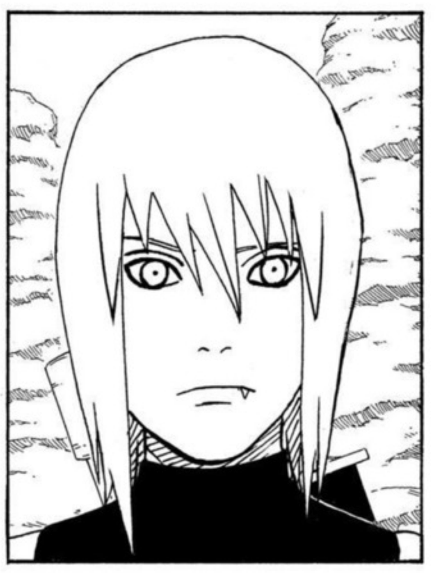


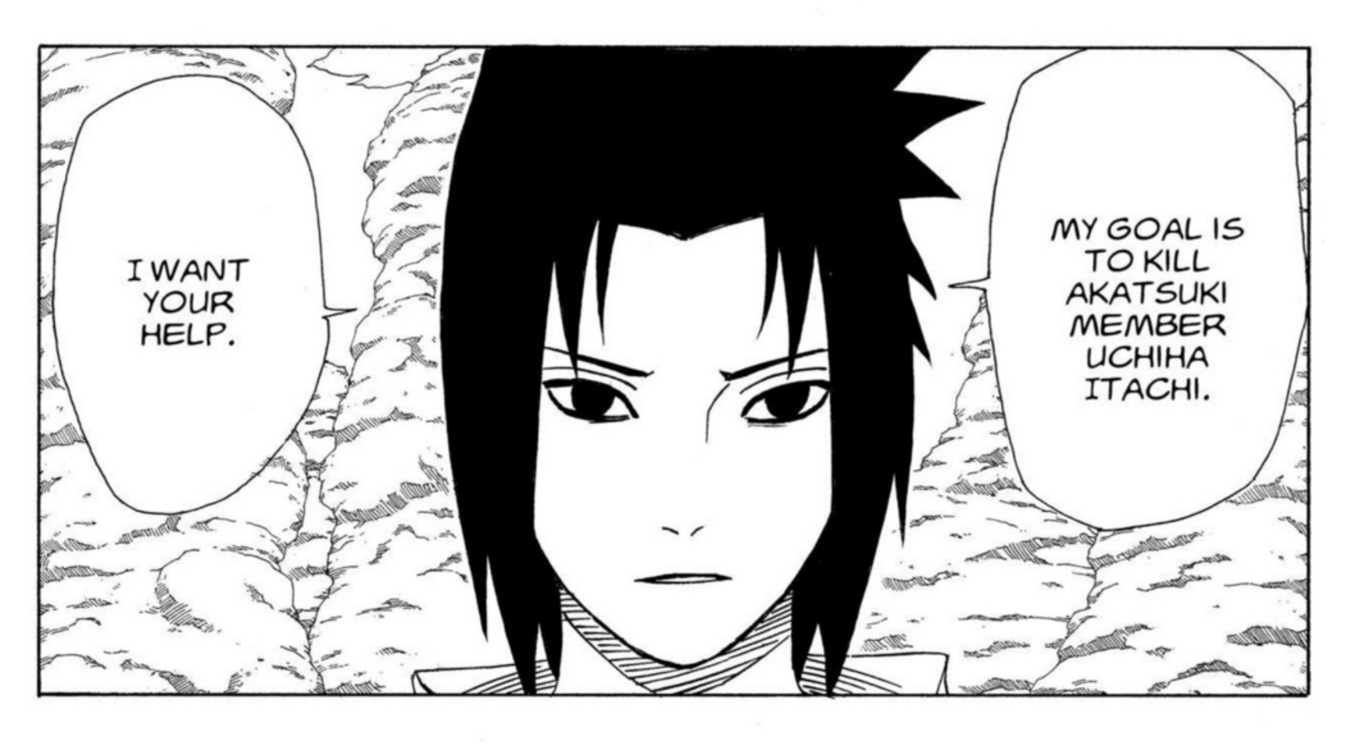

NOW THAT I'VE GATHERED MY DREAM TEAM...
...HERE'S MY PLAN...


READ
THIS
WAY





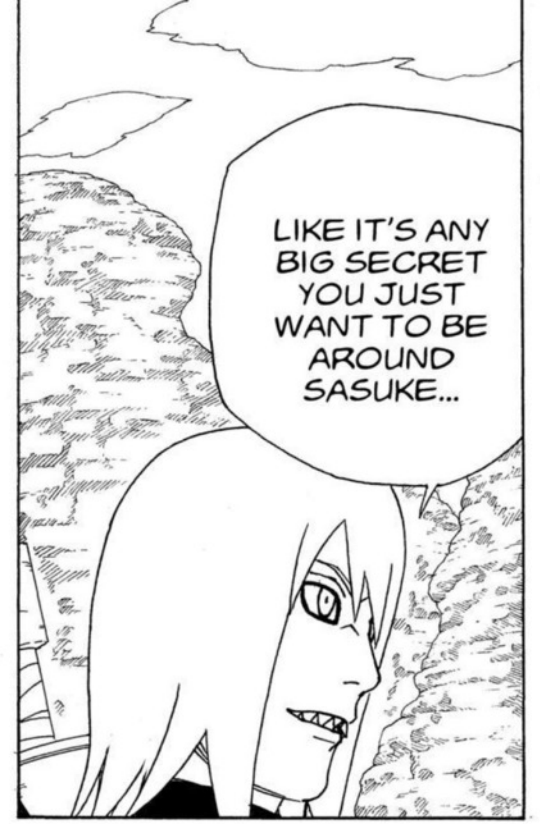



MY GOAL IS TO KILL AKATSUKI MEMBER UCHIHA ITACHI.
I WANT YOUR HELP.


THOUGHT SO...

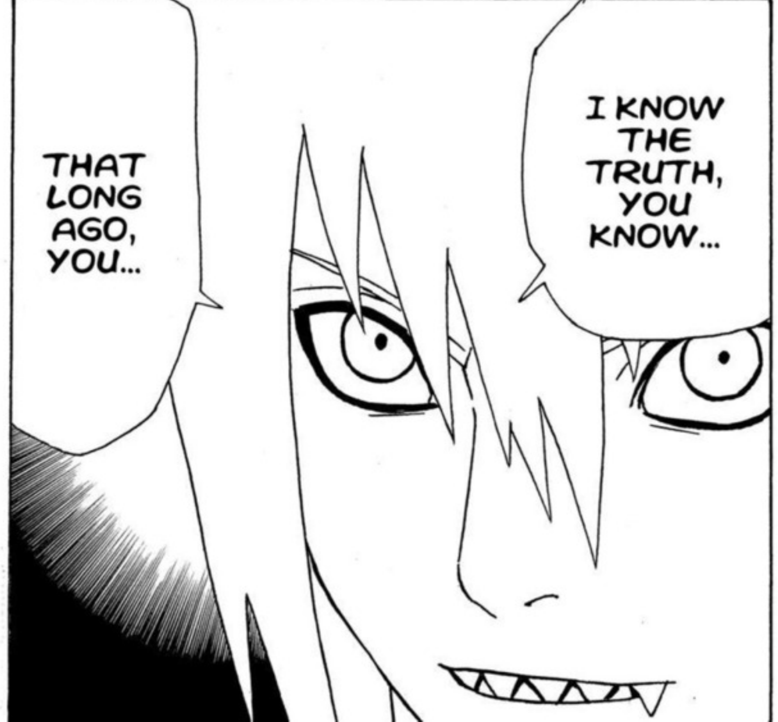

BUT FIRST... KARIN...
...YOU SAID YOU HAD SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF... WHAT IS IT?


R-RIGHT... NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT'S NOT REALLY THAT URGENT...
SHEESH, KARIN! CAN YOU JUST BE HONEST FOR ONCE??

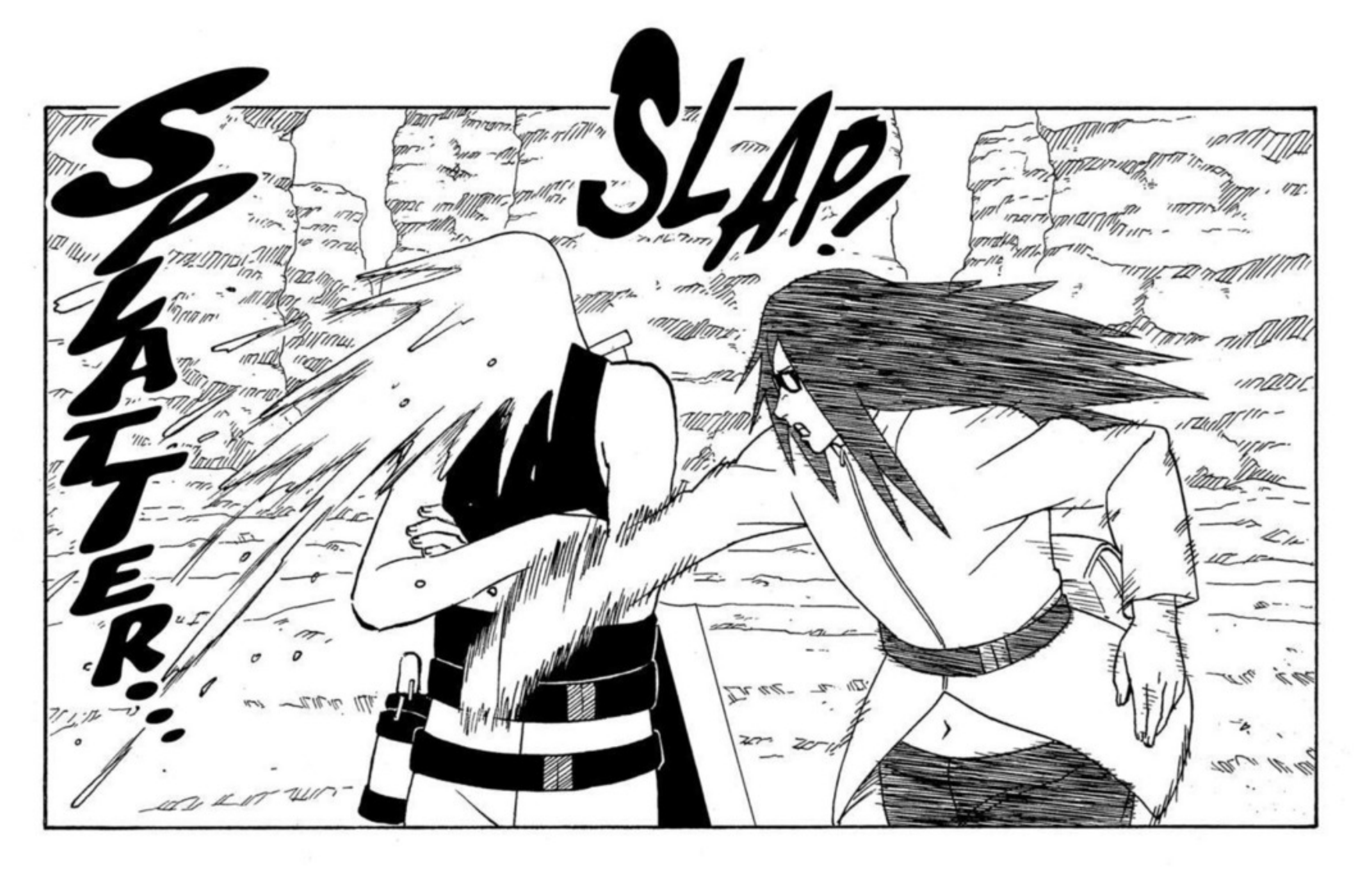

LIKE IT'S ANY BIG SECRET YOU JUST WANT TO BE AROUND SASUKE...


TH-THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL!!!
TAP
I-I DON'T KNOW WHO'S SPREADING SUCH SCURRILOUS LIES, BUT, UH...
...WHERE WAS I?!!


THERE, BULL'S-EYE!
THAT'S WHY YOU START STUTTERING.
IT'S SO OBVIOUS.


I KNOW THE TRUTH, YOU KNOW...
THAT LONG AGO, YOU...


!!


SLAP!
SPLATTER...


GAH!


SUIGETSU, STOP EGGING KARIN ON...
I TOLD YOU FROM THE GET-GO TO PLAY NICE.


ZLURP...
...

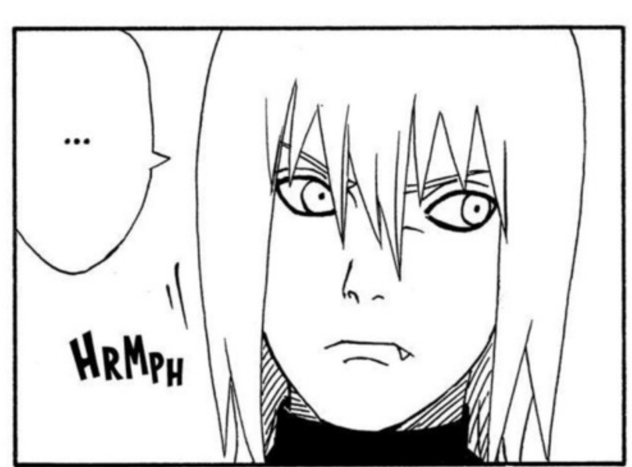

ALL RIGHT... SORRY, KARIN.
ZLURP...

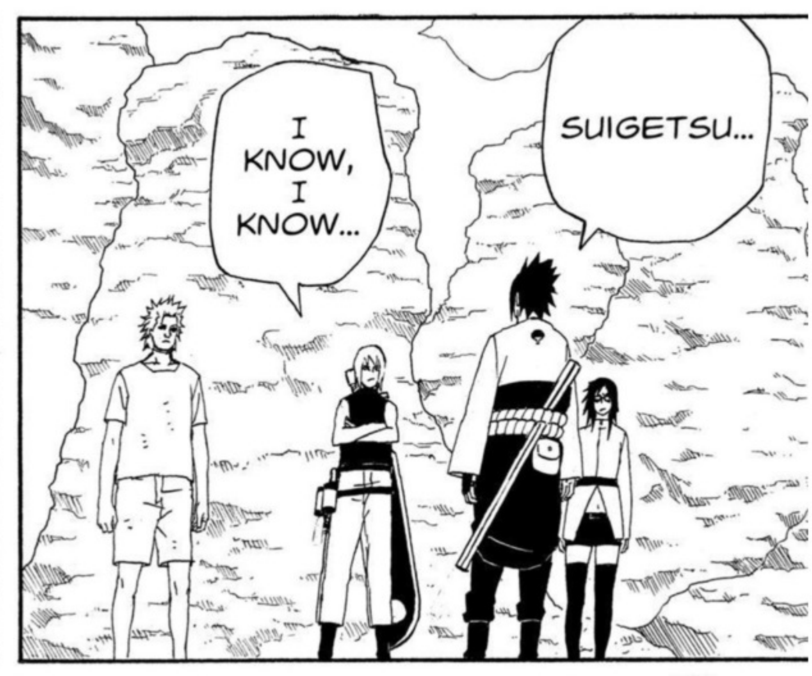

BUT I'M WARNING YOU...
...I'M GOING TO STICK SMACK DAB BY SASUKE'S SIDE.
ZLURP...

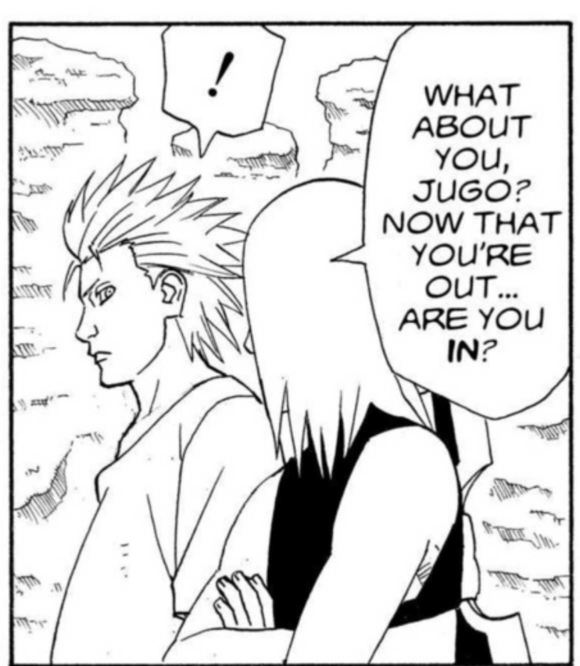
AT LEAST UNTIL I OBTAIN SAMEHADA ...

...ONE OF THE SEVEN KIRIGAKURE BLADES, THE GIANT SWORD OF UCHIHA ITACHI'S SIDEKICK, HOSHIGAKI KISAME.



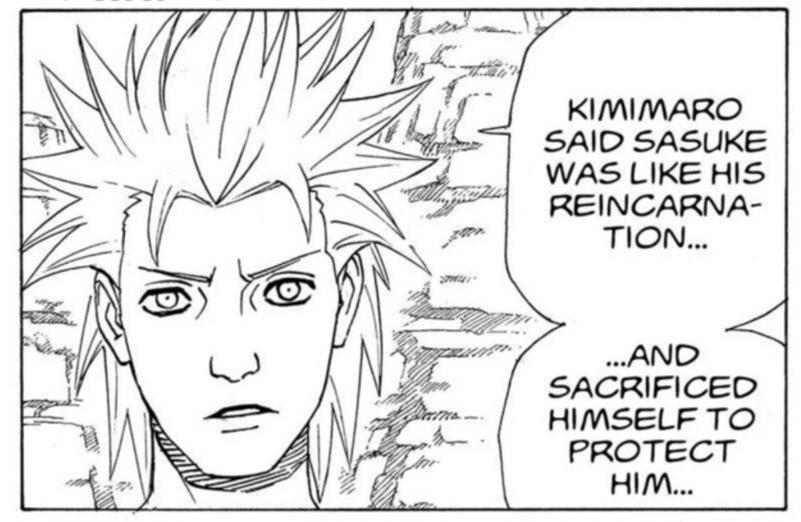


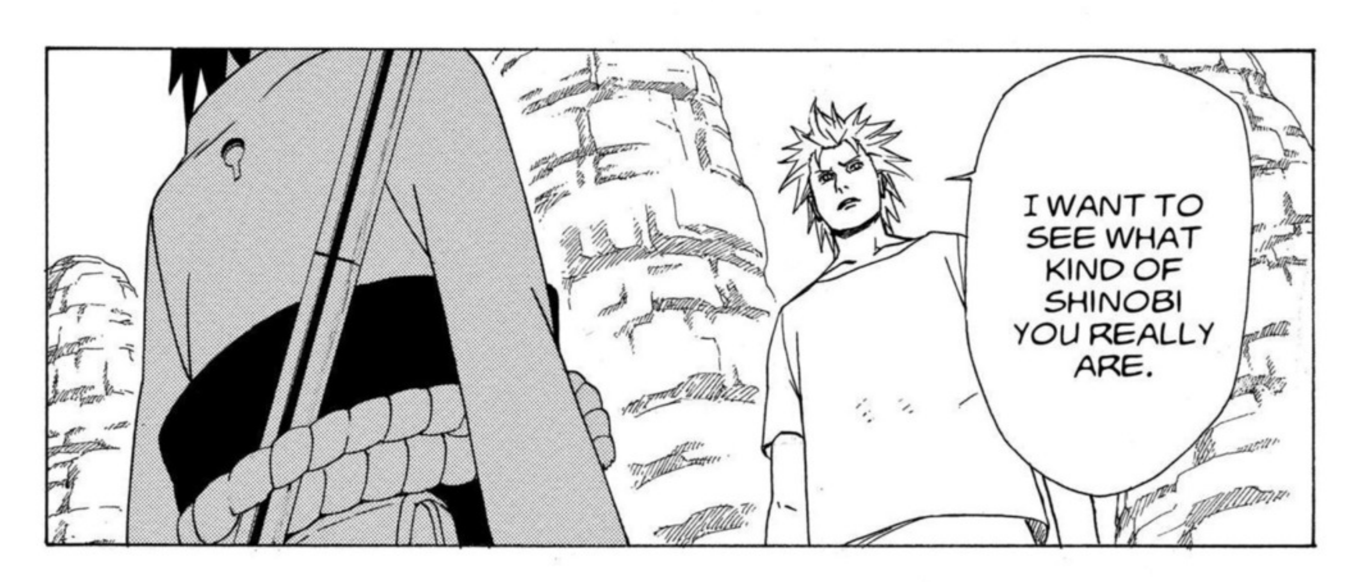








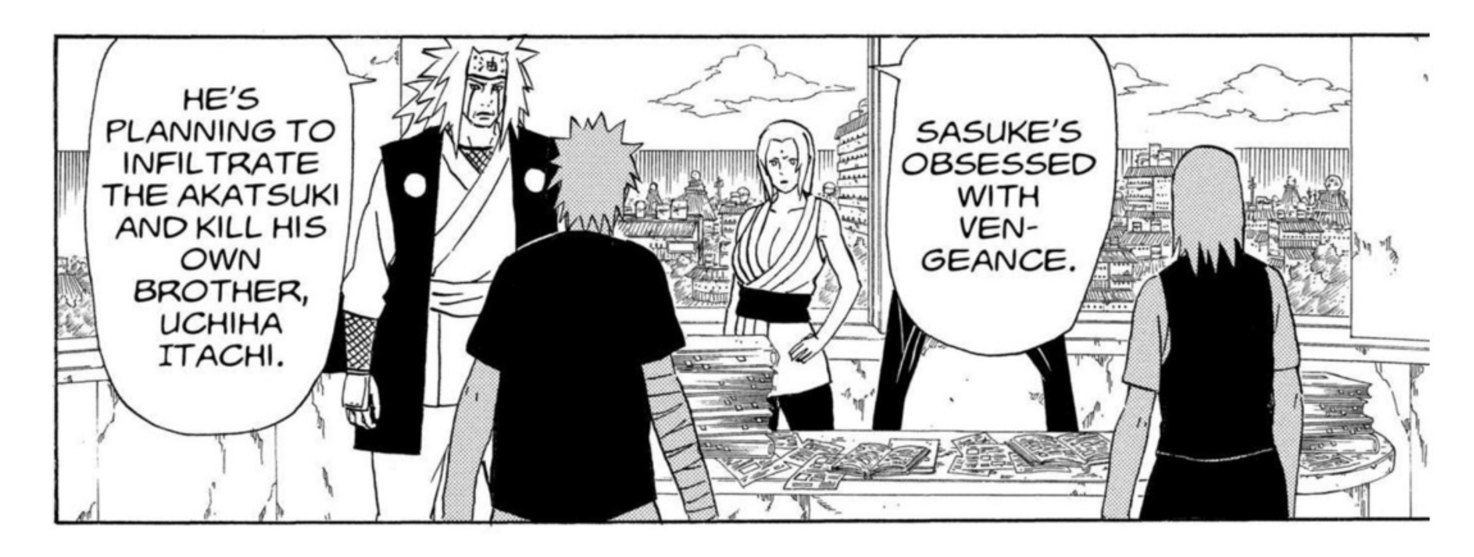




THEN IT'S DECIDED.


WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!


WHY NOT?!
OROCHI-MARU'S GONE, SO WHY WOULDN'T HE COME HOME?


SASUKE'S OBSESSED WITH VEN-GEANCE.
HE'S PLANNING TO INFILTRATE THE AKATSUKI AND KILL HIS OWN BROTHER, UCHIHA ITACHI.


THAT IDIOT! HE'S STILL...?
GRRR!


FROM HERE ON OUT, WE MOVE TOGETHER.


AND OUR CELL SHALL BE KNOWN AS...
...THE HEBI.


HEY, I KNOW! LET'S FORM A CELL AND GET OUT THERE TOO!
OPERATION TRACK AKATSUKI IS STILL GOING ON, RIGHT?!
YEAH ...

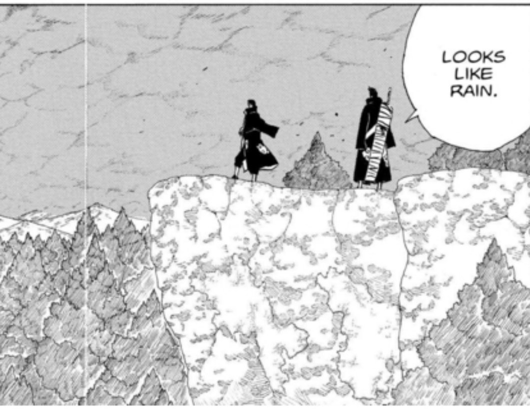

IF WE HUNT DOWN THAT AKATSUKI MEMBER FIRST...
...WE'LL DEFINITELY RUN INTO SASUKE EVENTUALLY!


AS I SAID, THE HEBI HAS ONLY ONE GOAL...


IN OTHER WORDS, OUR TARGET IS...

UCHIHA
ITACHI!


RUMBLE RUMBLE RUMBLE...

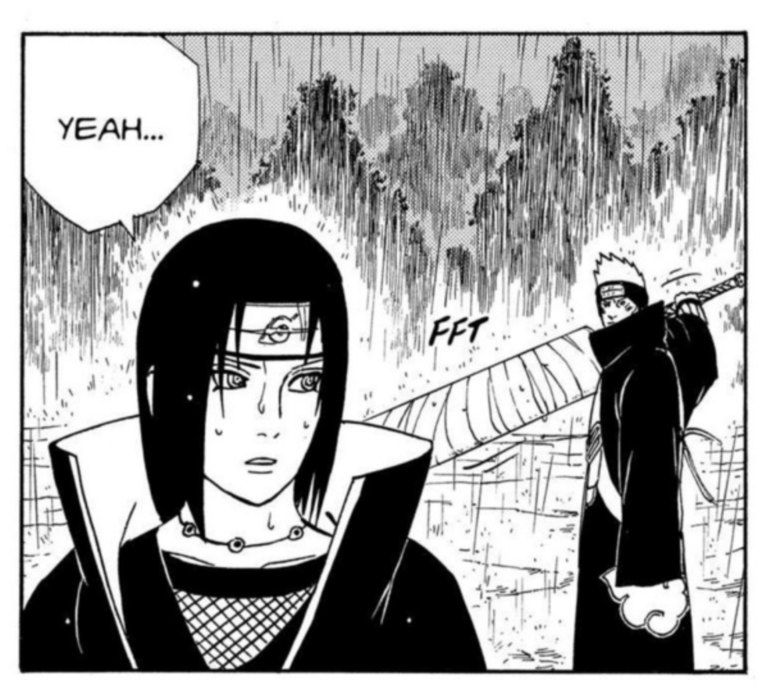

LOOKS LIKE RAIN.


MORE LIKE A STORM TO ME...
FWOOSH...


NARUTO

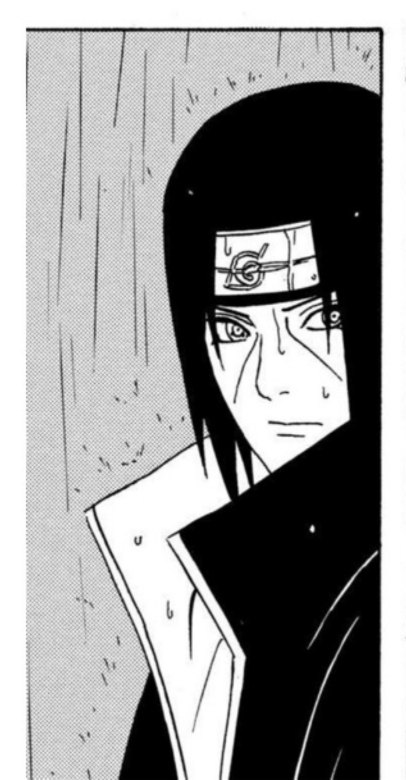

Number 353: The Akatsuki Assembles...!!


LET'S TAKE SHELTER IN THE TREES.
OR ELSE WE'LL CATCH A CHILL.
THAP


YEAH...
FFT


THUNK


BESIDES, I NEED TO CONTACT OUR LEADER...
SHF



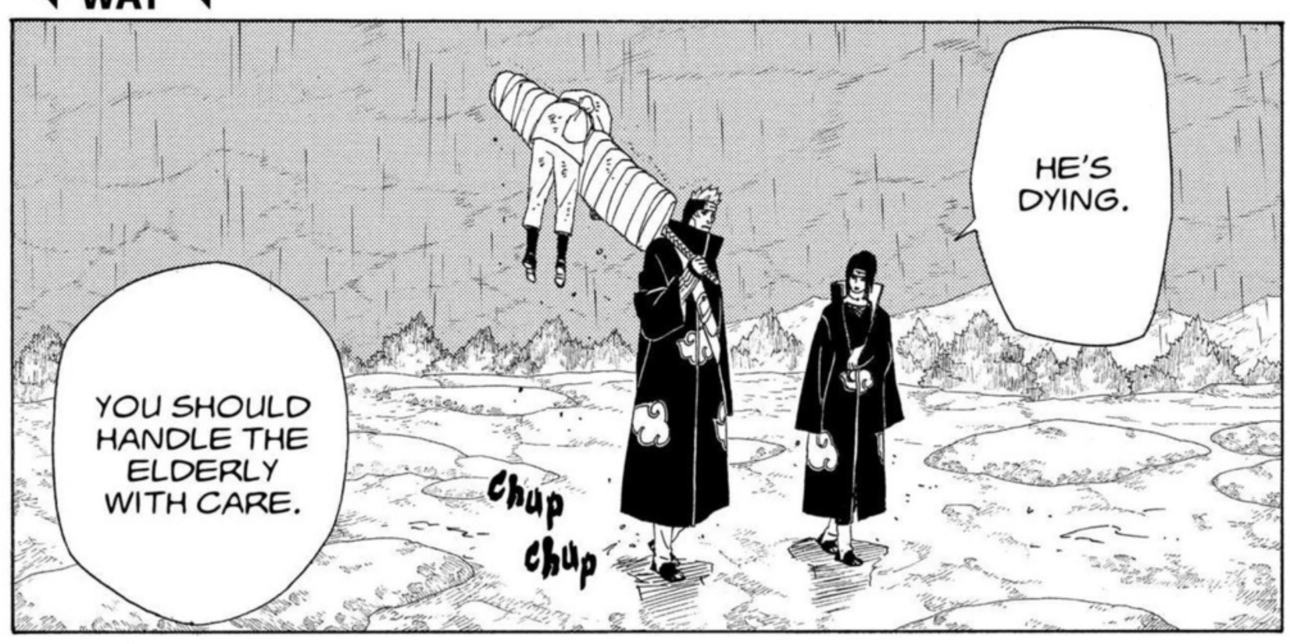
SHUP...

SHFF

Number 353: The Akatsuki Assembles...!!

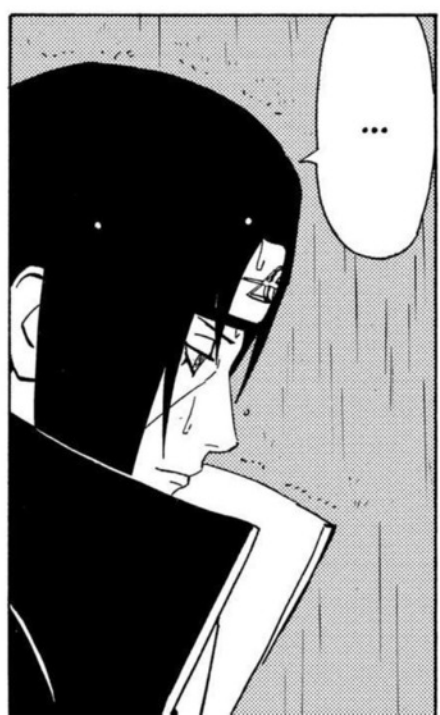


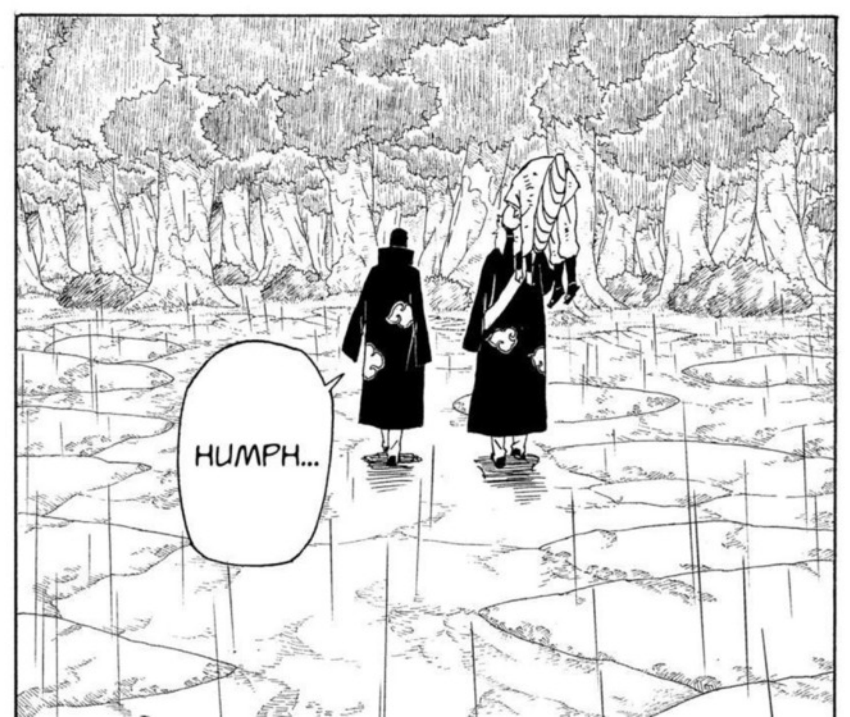

READ THIS WAY


HE'S DYING.
YOU SHOULD HANDLE THE ELDERLY WITH CARE.
Chup chup


EASY FOR YOU TO SAY, SINCE YOU DON'T KNOW HIM.
THE CORROSION STYLE JUTSU OF THIS JINCHÛRIKI OF FOUR TAILS IS NOTHING TO LAUGH ABOUT.


BUT YOU PROBABLY CAN'T UNDER-STAND MY PAIN...
...NOT HAVING BATTLED THE FELLOW DIRECTLY.


...

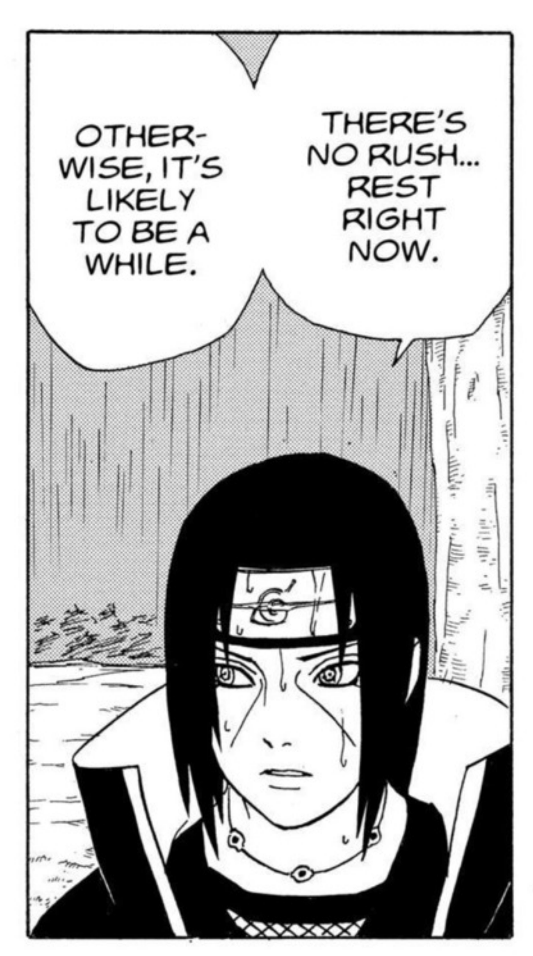

HUMPH...


WELL, I GUESS I WAS THE ONE WHO INSISTED ON GOING ALONE.

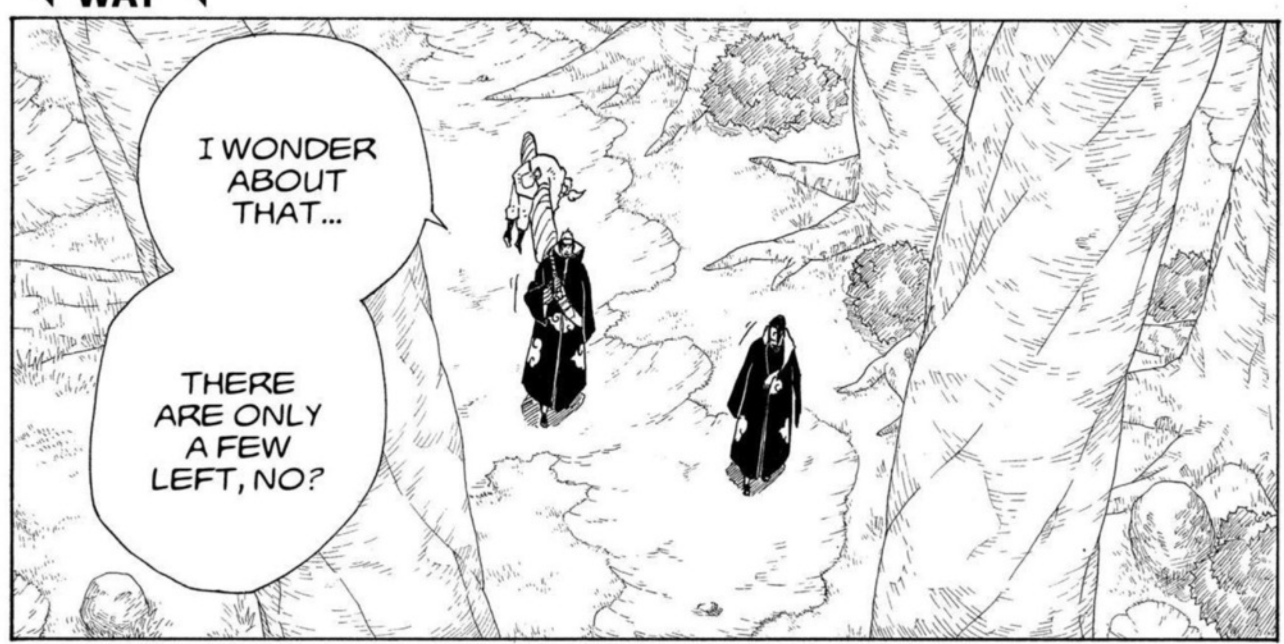

SHALL I TAKE CARE OF YOUR **OBJECTIVE** FOR YOU ALSO?


SETTLE DOWN, KISAME.

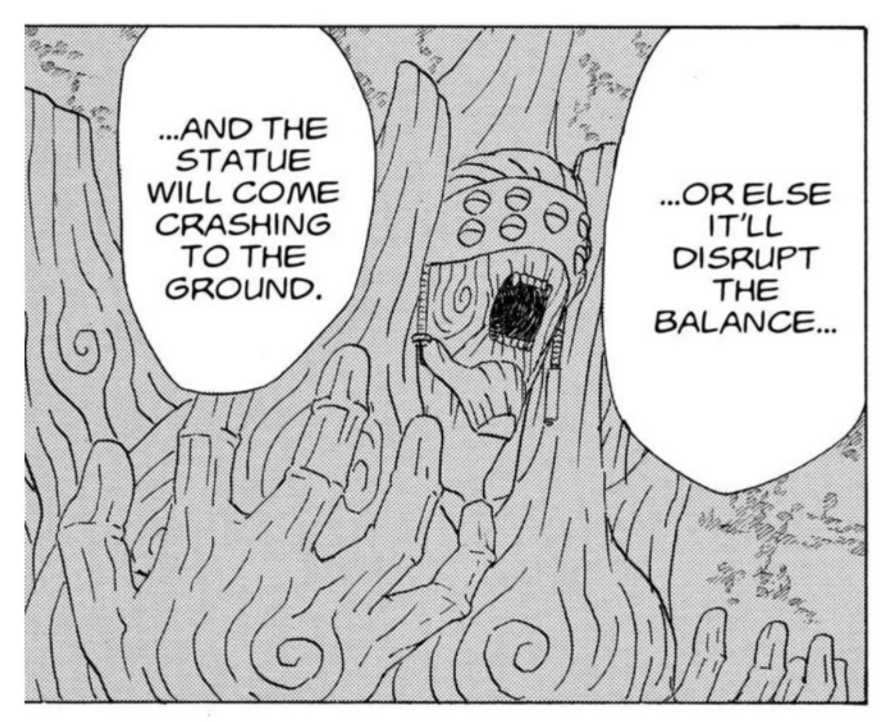

SORRY, I'M A LITTLE TIRED.
I JUST WANT TO GET THESE HUNTS OVER WITH AND GET SOME REST.


THERE'S NO RUSH... REST RIGHT NOW.
OTHER-WISE, IT'S LIKELY TO BE A WHILE.


READ THIS WAY


I WONDER ABOUT THAT...
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW LEFT, NO?


OUR LEADER SAID THAT WE HAVE TO SEAL NINE TAILS AWAY LAST...


...OR ELSE IT'LL DISRUPT THE BALANCE...
...AND THE STATUE WILL COME CRASHING TO THE GROUND.


WE HAVE TO CAPTURE THE JINCHÛRIKI ALIVE ANYWAY...
...SO WHY CAN'T WE TRAP HIM NOW AND JUST KEEP HIM IM-PRISONED?
NNNH


SCRUNCH


HEH... I ACTUALLY DON'T CARE EITHER WAY.
BUT DEIDARA FAILED AT IT...
...SO IF WE'RE SEALING HIM AWAY LAST, THEN MIGHT AS WELL HUNT HIM LAST.


BESIDES... WE'VE ATTRACTED TOO MUCH ATTENTION RECENTLY.
THUD
IF WE TAKE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI RIGHT NOW, IT'LL ONLY RILE KONOHAGAKURE ALL THE MORE...


OH...
...YOU THINK SO...?


KONOHA HAS STRONG CONNECTIONS TO THE OTHER VILLAGES. ALLIANCES...
IF WORD GETS AROUND, IT'LL MAKE OUR JOBS HARDER.

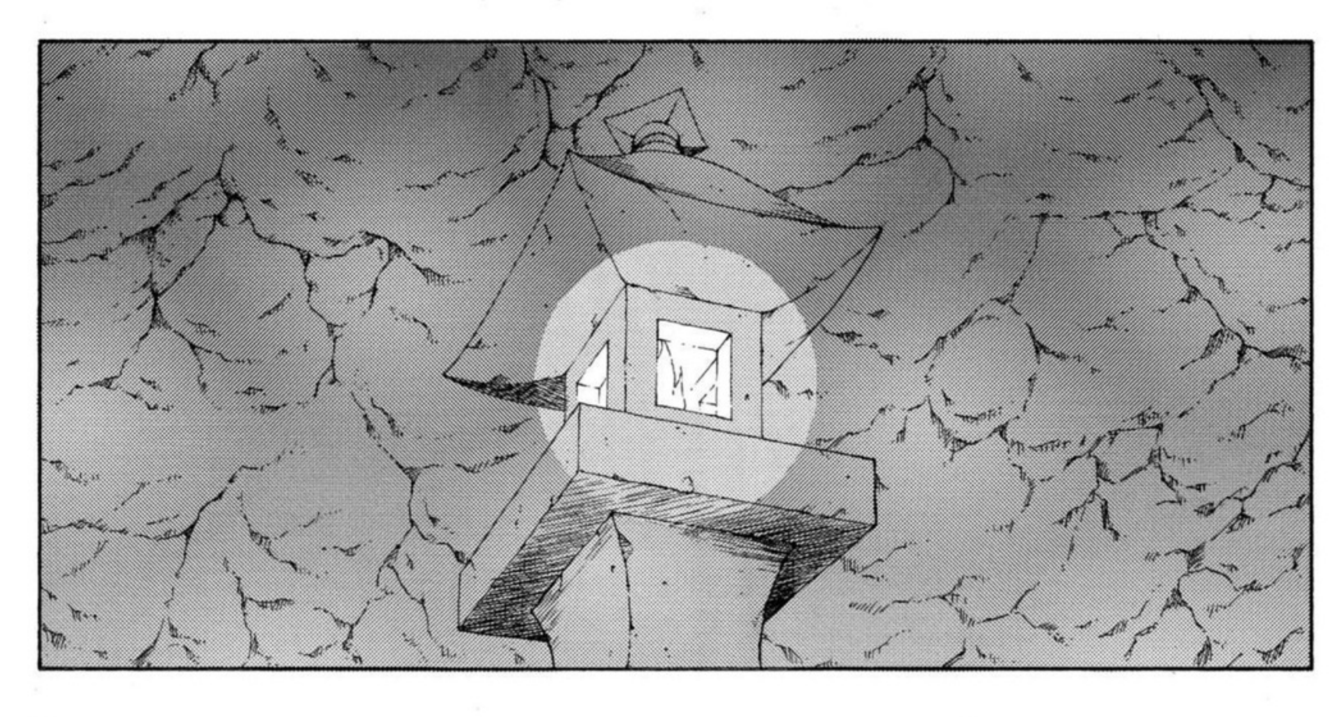

SO FOR NOW, BEST TO COLLECT THE OTHER EIGHT AS QUICKLY AND QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE...

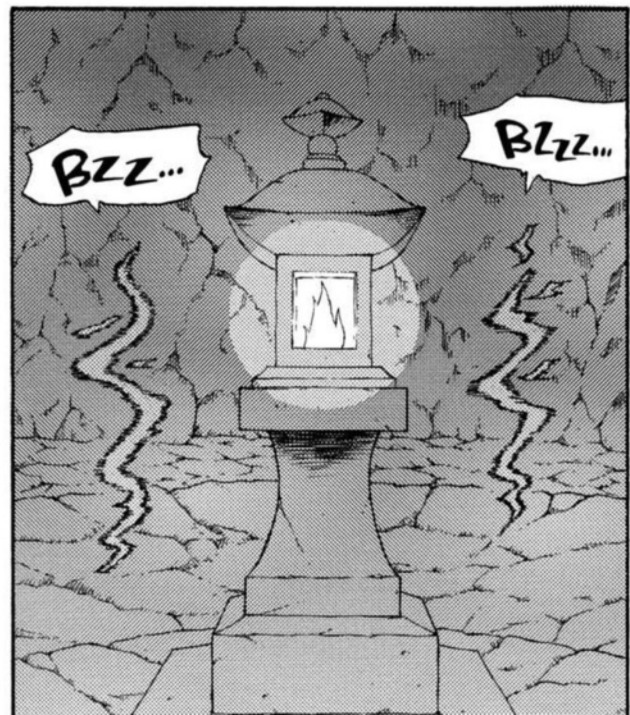

READ
THIS
WAY

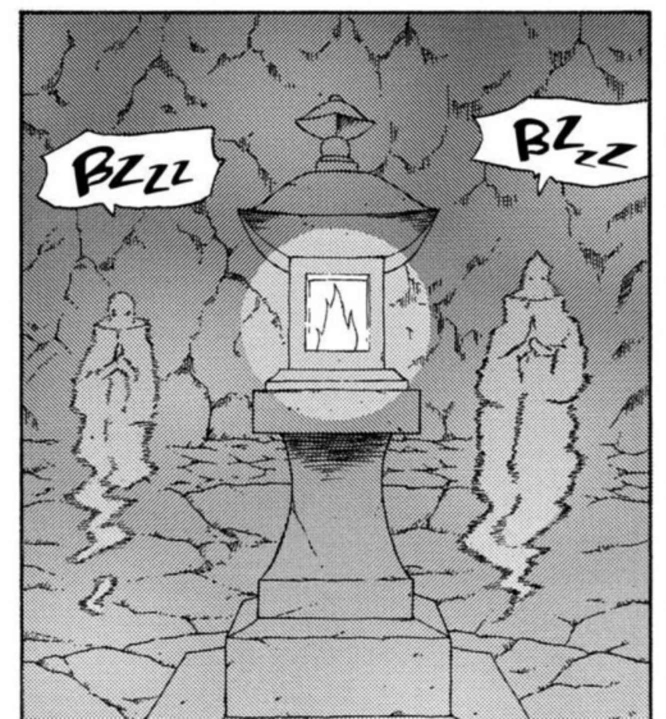

I SEE... IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...


!


GOOD TIMING.




BZZZ...
BZZ...


BZZZ
BZZZ

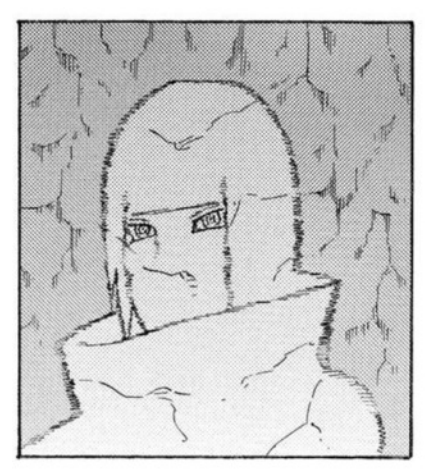
YOU'RE LATE.


WE'D JUST CAPTURED A JINCHÛRIKI.
WE HAD TO TIE HIM UP AND MAKE SURE HE COULDN'T GET AWAY.


...ALL RIGHT...
WE'RE ALL HERE NOW.

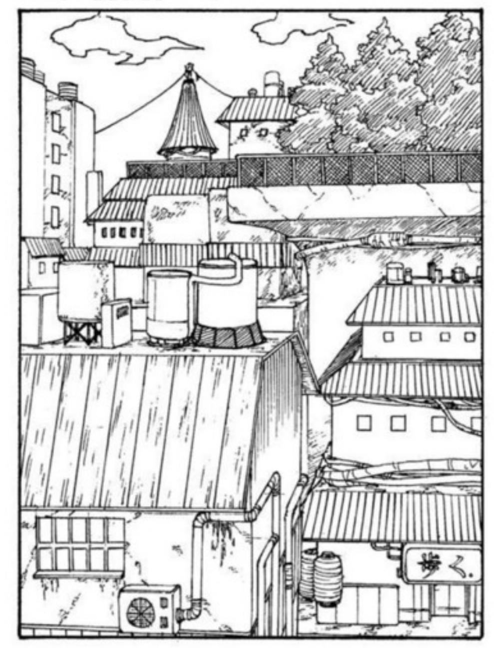

HMM?


BUT I DON'T SEE HIDAN OR KAKUZU.

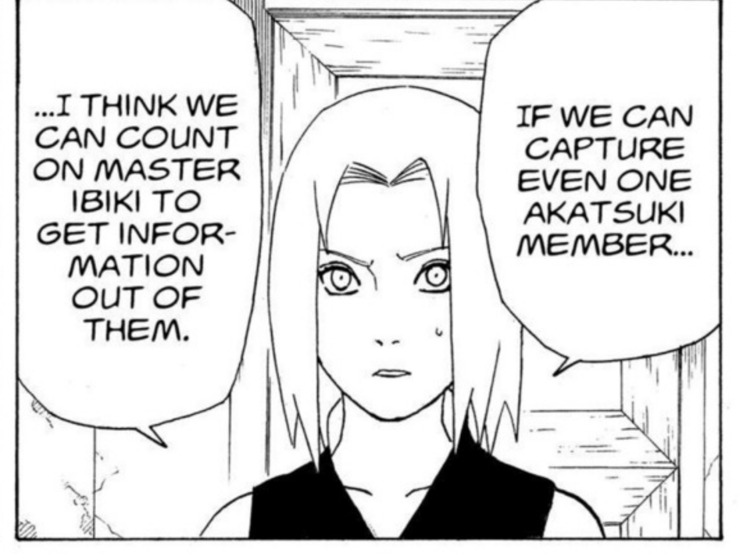



READ THIS WAY


THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE DEAD...




UCHIHA ITACHI, HUH...
...SO WHAT TO DO AND HOW TO GO ABOUT IT...?


IF WE CAN CAPTURE EVEN ONE AKATSUKI MEMBER...
...I THINK WE CAN COUNT ON MASTER IBIKI TO GET INFORMATION OUT OF THEM.

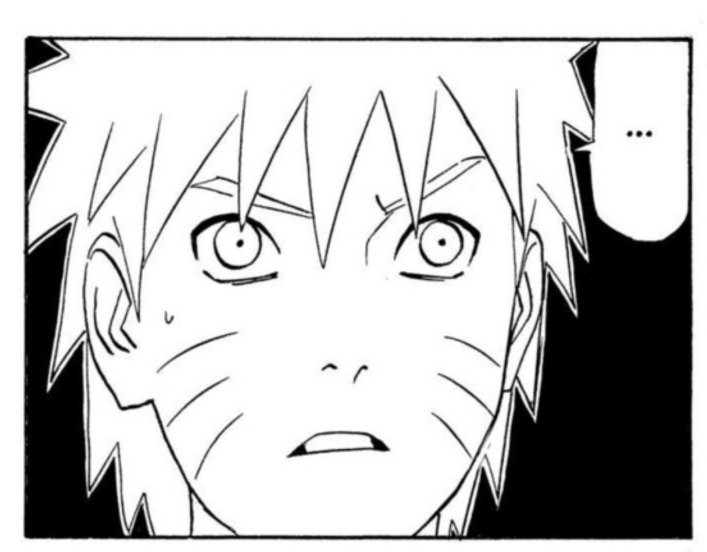

I'VE ALREADY GIVEN EACH SQUAD STANDING ORDERS TO TRY TO CAPTURE AKATSUKI MEMBERS AND BRING THEM IN, BUT...

THEY'RE NOT A LOOSE-LIPPED BUNCH, THAT'S FOR SURE...
JUDGING FROM THE ONES WE'VE ENCOUNTERED SO FAR, IT'S BEEN TOO RISKY...
...TO TAKE THEM ALIVE OR INTACT.

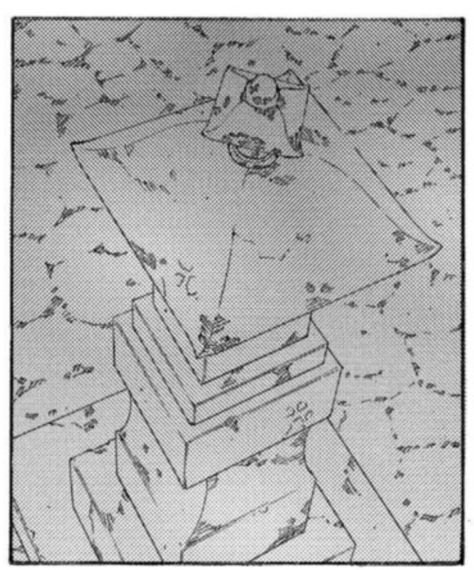


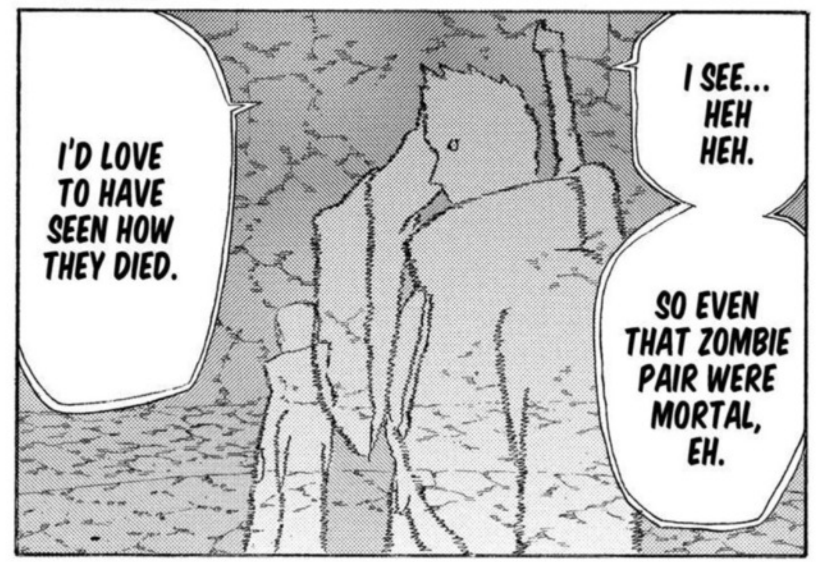


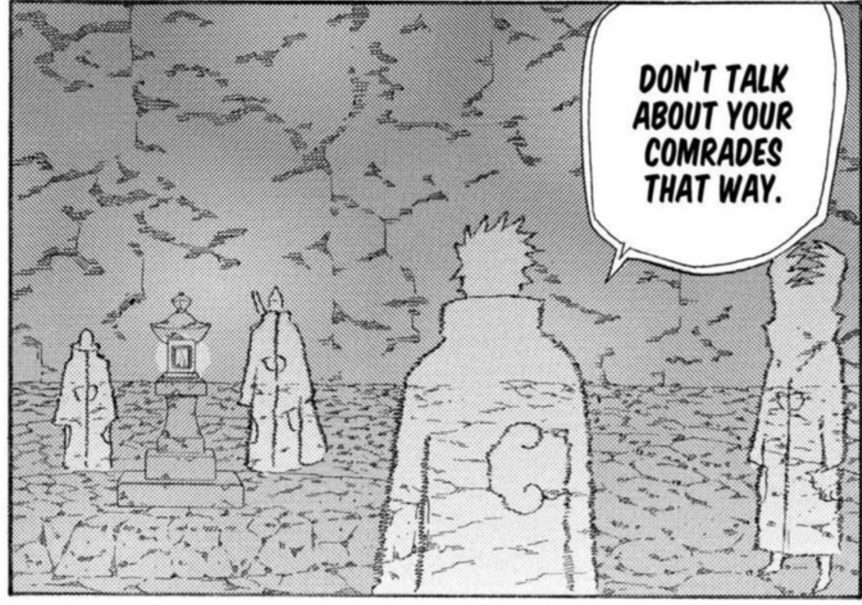


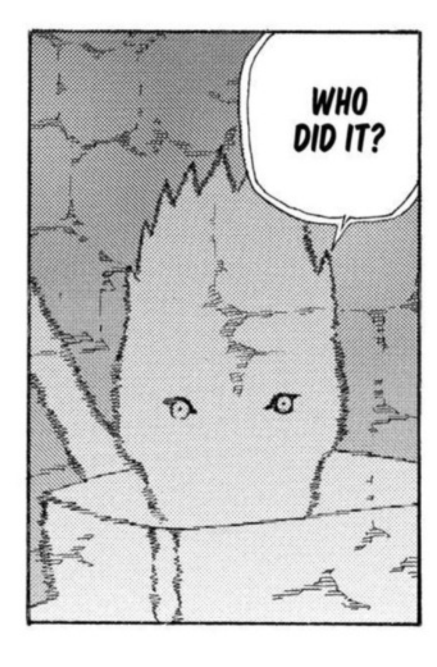


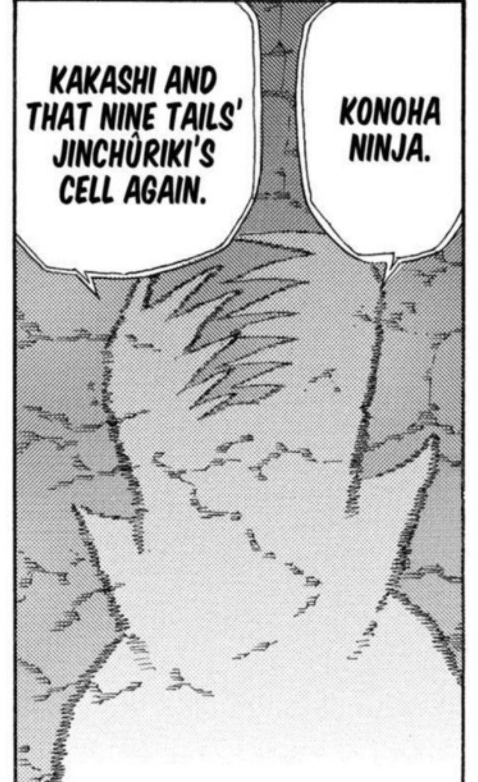

READ
THIS
WAY

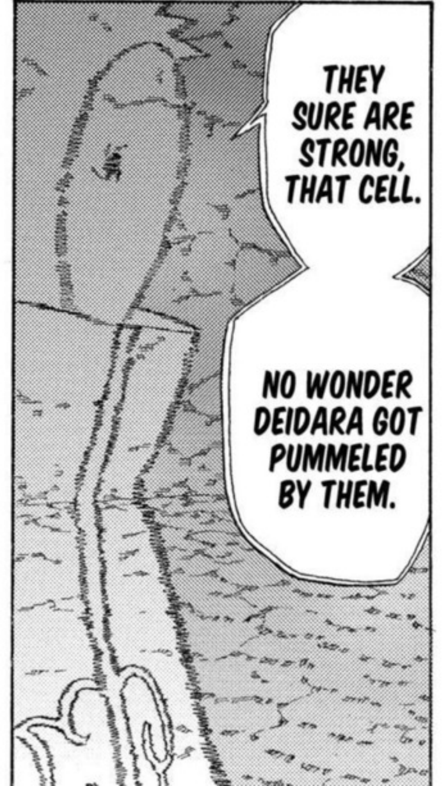



I SEE... HEH HEH.
SO EVEN THAT ZOMBIE PAIR WERE MORTAL, EH.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE SEEN HOW THEY DIED.


DON'T TALK ABOUT YOUR COMRADES THAT WAY.


WHO DID IT?


KONOHA NINJA.
KAKASHI AND THAT NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI'S CELL AGAIN.

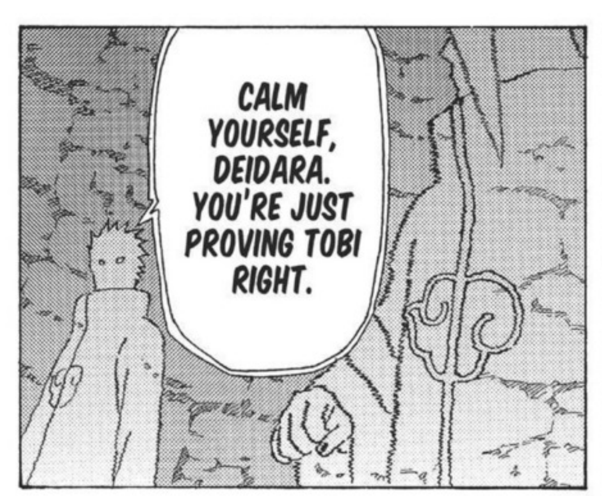

THEY SURE ARE STRONG, THAT CELL.
NO WONDER DEIDARA GOT PUMMELED BY THEM.


TOBI!!


JUST KEEP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH...
...YOU'LL PUSH ME TO MY LIMIT.


YOUR LIMIT?
YOU MEAN YOU'LL GET *EXPLOSIVE?*
SO TEMPERA-MENTAL.


WHY, YOU UNCULTURED LITTLE... JUST YOU KEEP YAPPING...!


CALM YOURSELF, DEIDARA. YOU'RE JUST PROVING TOBI RIGHT.

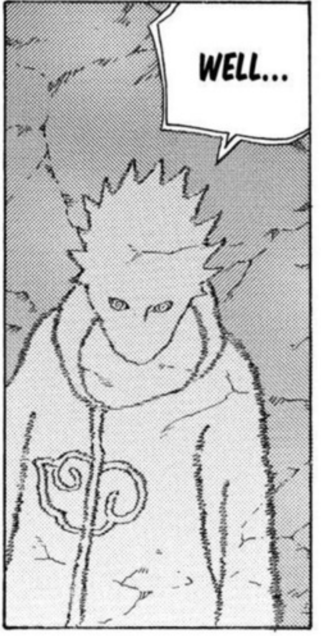

BAH...
A-HA HA HA HA.


AND YOU, TOBI... YOU ALWAYS SAY TOO MUCH.
RESPECT YOUR SENIORS.

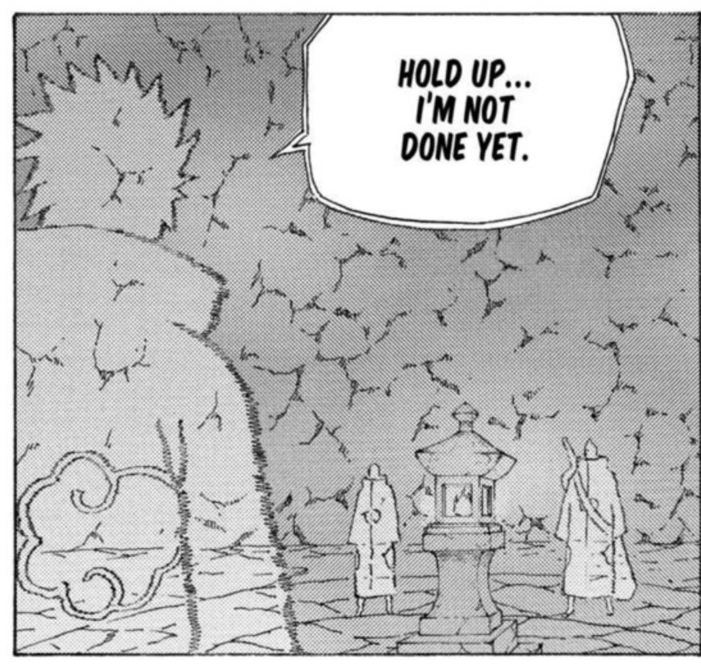

YES, SIR!
SORRY, SIR!

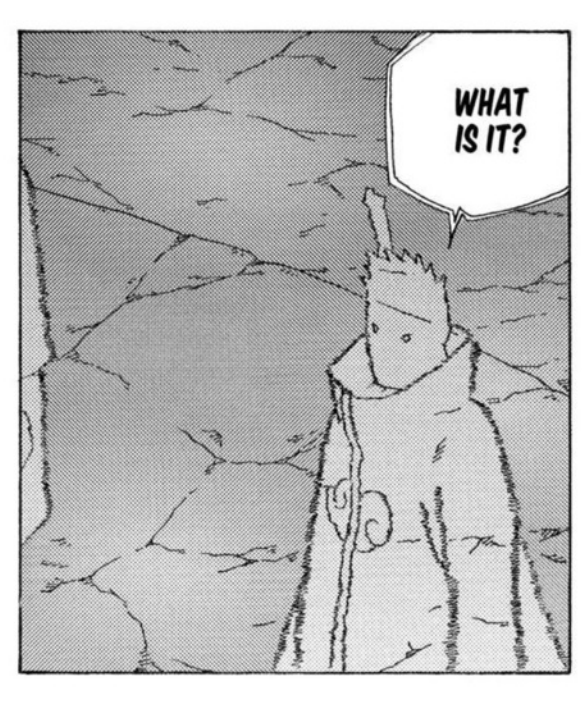

READ
THIS
WAY

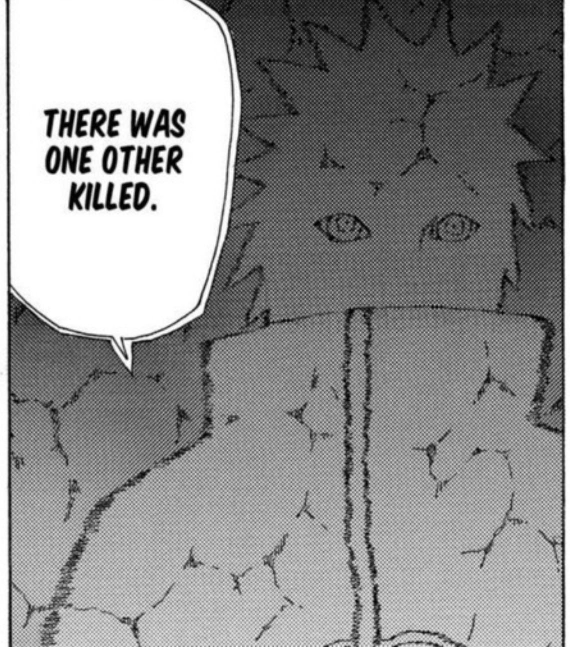

ARE WE REALLY GOING TO BE ABLE TO GATHER ALL THE JINCHÛRIKI LIKE THIS?!


WELL...

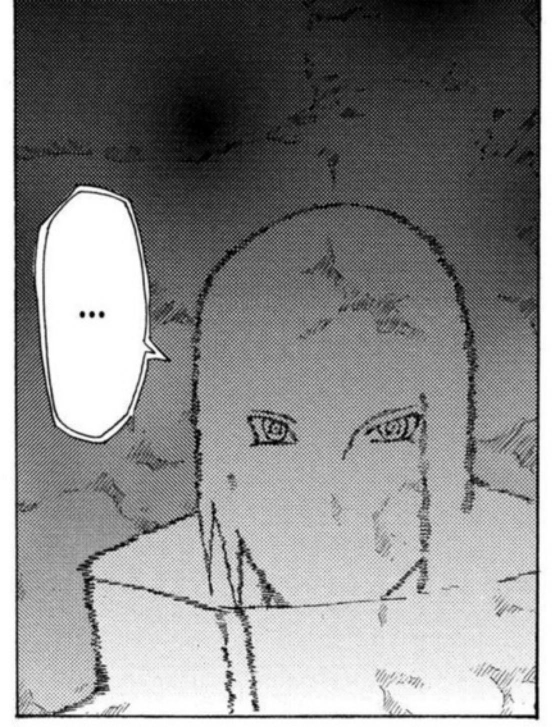

IN ANY CASE, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
...I'D LIKE TO GET FOUR TAILS SEALED RIGHT AWAY...


HOLD UP... I'M NOT DONE YET.


WHAT IS IT?

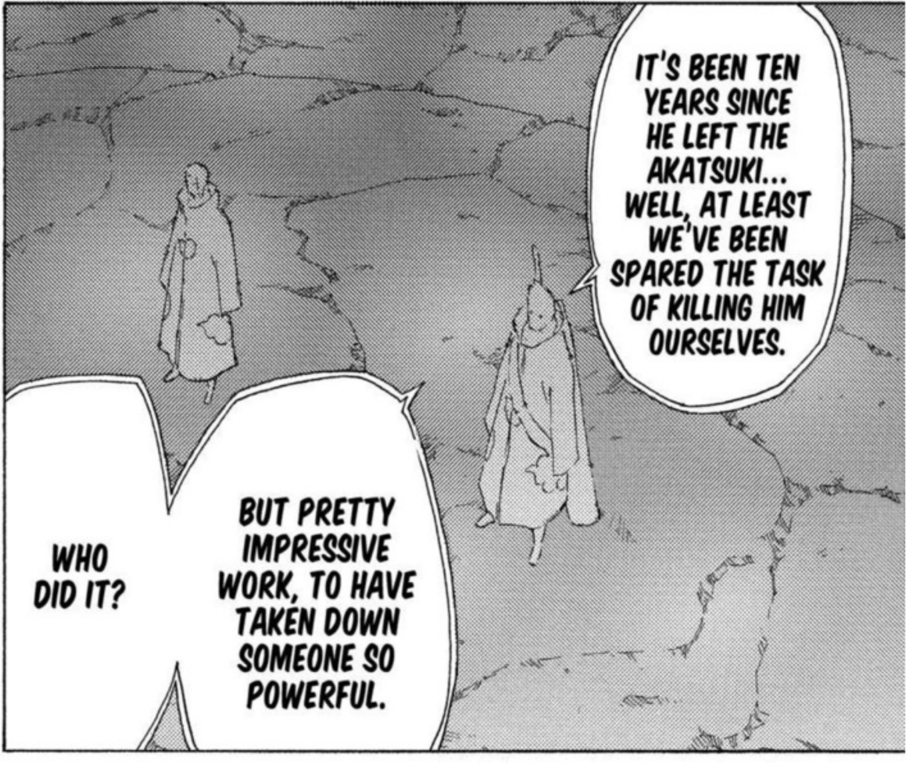

THERE WAS ONE OTHER KILLED.


ONE OTHER?
...


...


OROCHI-MARU.


UCHIHA SASUKE.

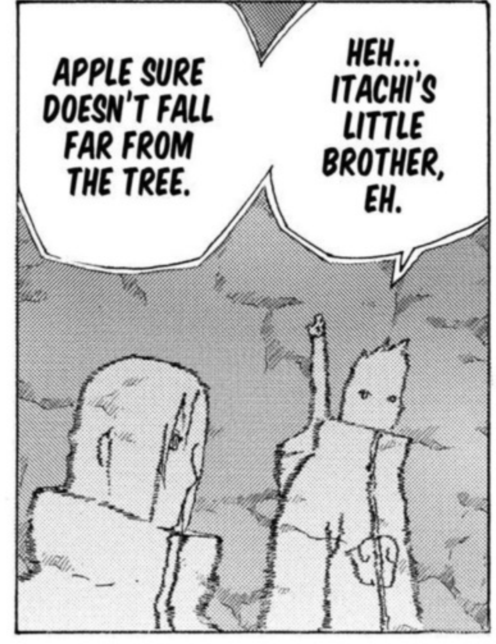

IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE HE LEFT THE AKATSUKI... WELL, AT LEAST WE'VE BEEN SPARED THE TASK OF KILLING HIM OURSELVES.
BUT PRETTY IMPRESSIVE WORK, TO HAVE TAKEN DOWN SOMEONE SO POWERFUL.
WHO DID IT?


BUT I'D SWORN TO SLAUGHTER OROCHI-MARU... HMMM?


...



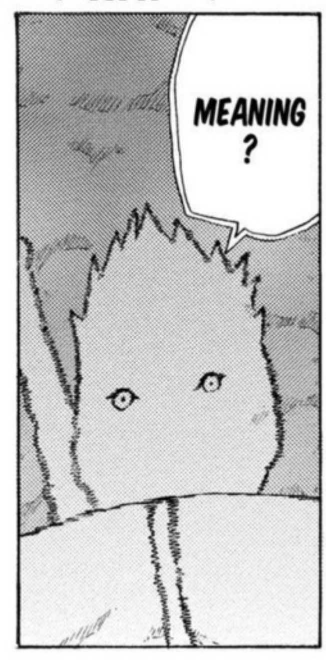
READ THIS WAY



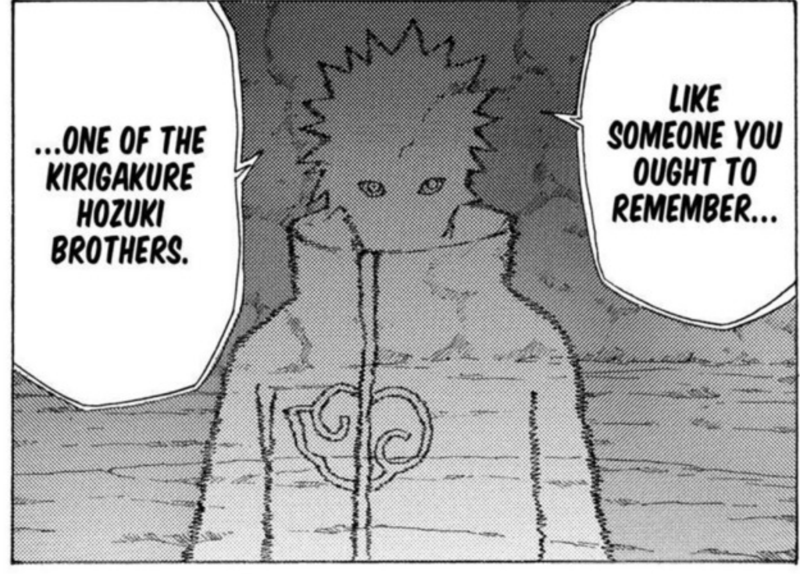
HEH... ITACHI'S LITTLE BROTHER, EH.
APPLE SURE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE.



HE'S IN THE PROCESS OF PUTTING TOGETHER A CELL OF HIS OWN.
TROUBLESOME SHINOBI, EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM...



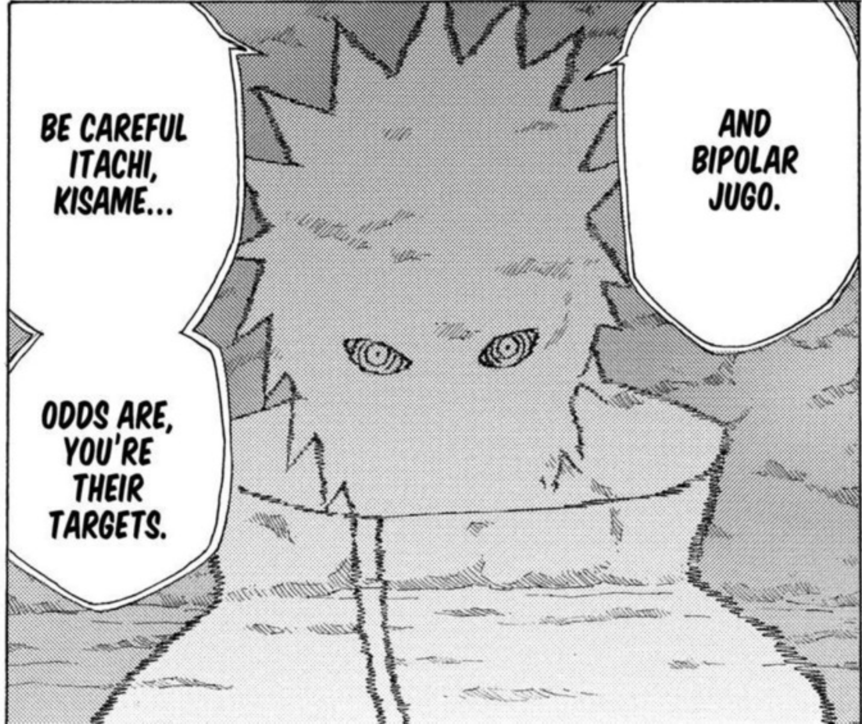
MEANING ?



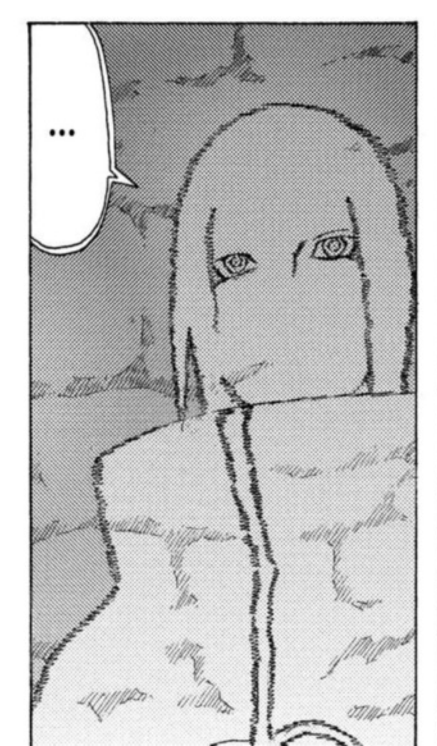
LIKE SOMEONE YOU OUGHT TO REMEMBER...
...ONE OF THE KIRIGAKURE HOZUKI BROTHERS.



...MUST BE SUIGETSU.
THAT'S A NAME I HAVEN'T HEARD IN A WHILE.

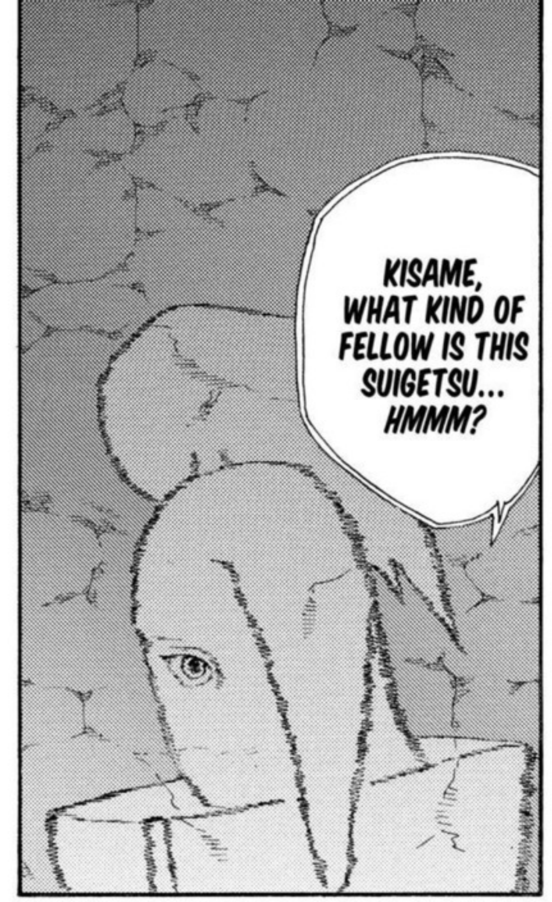


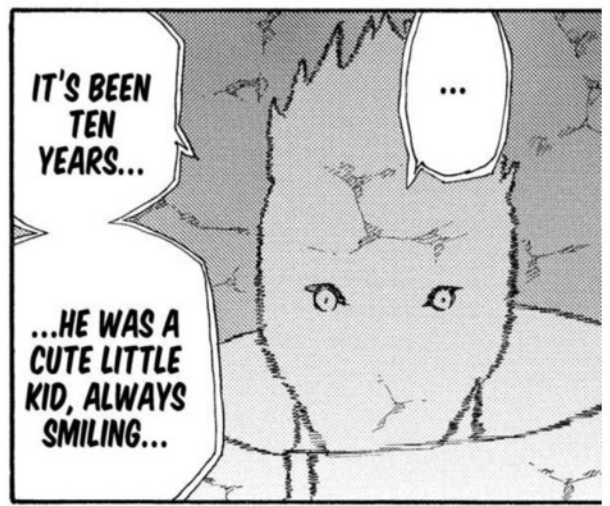
AND BIPOLAR JUGO.
BE CAREFUL ITACHI, KISAME...
ODDS ARE, YOU'RE THEIR TARGETS.

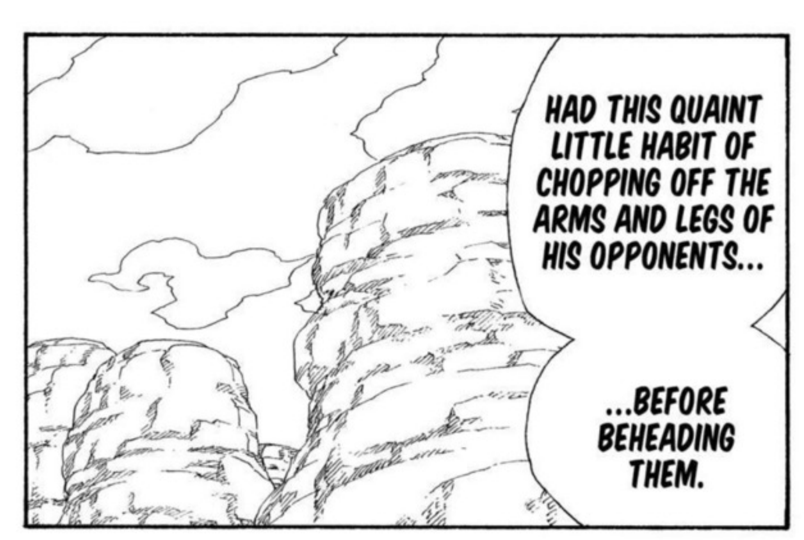


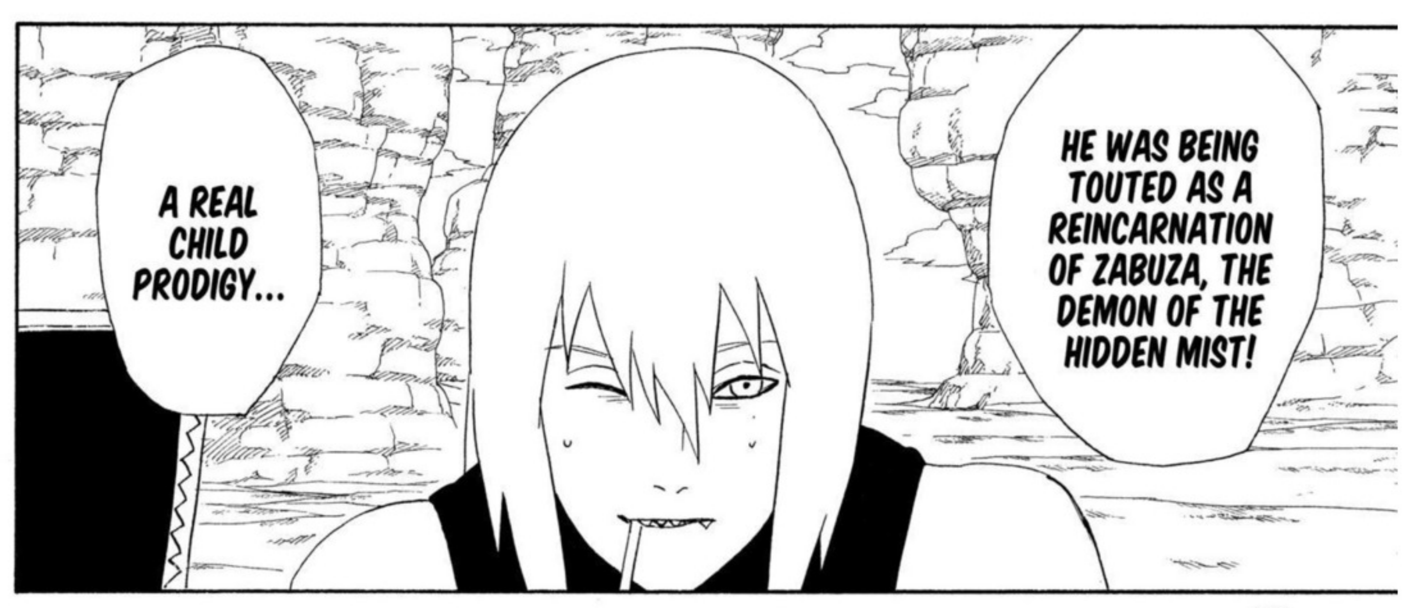
...


THE REST OF YOU KEEP UCHIHA SASUKE IN MIND AS WELL.
THEY MAY COME AFTER YOU TO GAIN INFORMATION ON ITACHI AND KISAME.

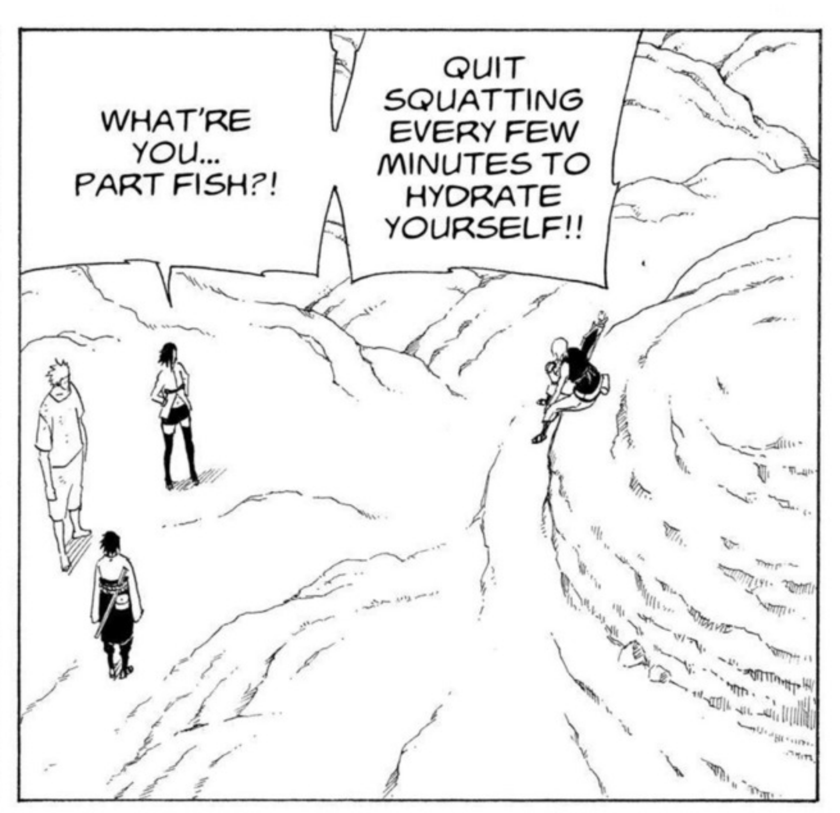

KISAME, WHAT KIND OF FELLOW IS THIS SUIGETSU... HMMM?

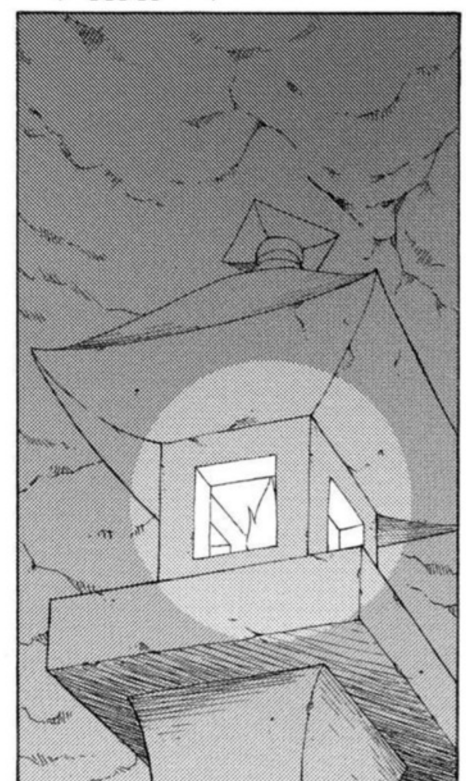

...
IT'S BEEN TEN YEARS...
...HE WAS A CUTE LITTLE KID, ALWAYS SMILING...


HAD THIS QUAINT LITTLE HABIT OF CHOPPING OFF THE ARMS AND LEGS OF HIS OPPONENTS...
...BEFORE BEHEADING THEM.


HE WAS BEING TOUTED AS A REINCARNATION OF ZABUZA, THE DEMON OF THE HIDDEN MIST!
A REAL CHILD PRODIGY...







THEY ALL SOUND QUITE INTERESTING.

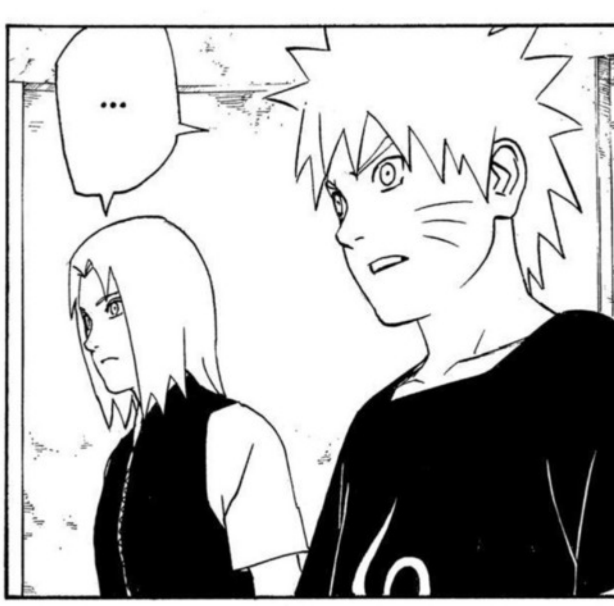
HMMM ...?



Number 354: On the Move

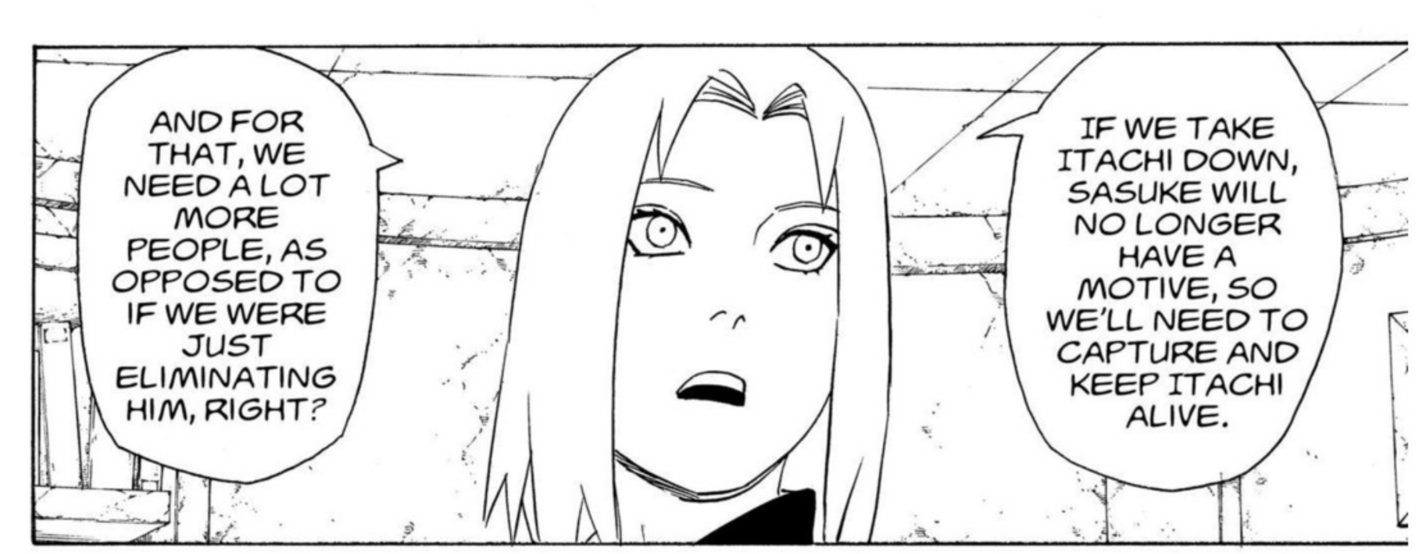


HUNT ITACHI... TO CATCH SASUKE... HUH...
AND WHAT WILL YOU DO WHEN YOU FIND THE ELDER UCHIHA BROTHER?

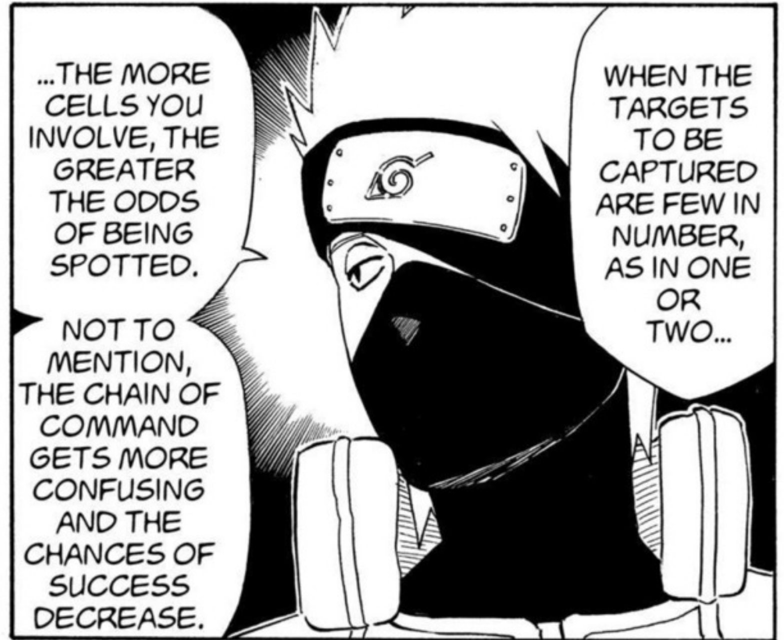




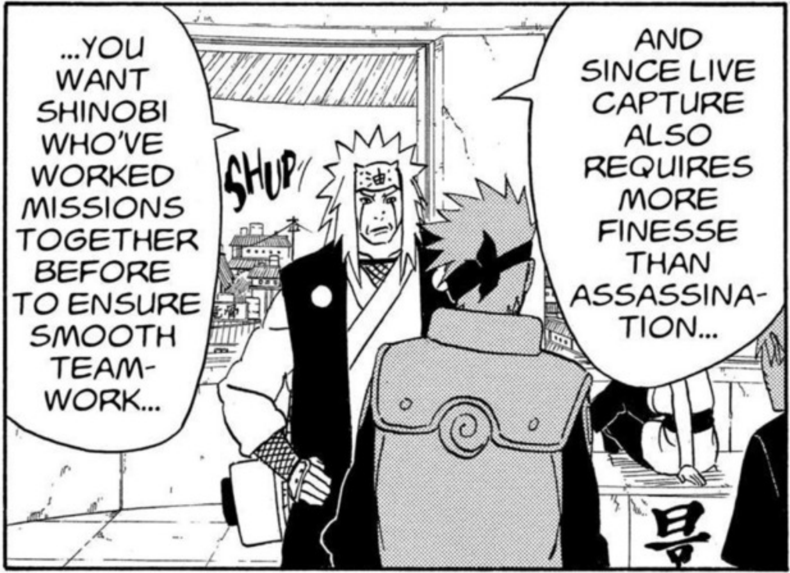





READ THIS WAY


WHEN THE TARGETS TO BE CAPTURED ARE FEW IN NUMBER, AS IN ONE OR TWO...
...THE MORE CELLS YOU INVOLVE, THE GREATER THE ODDS OF BEING SPOTTED.
NOT TO MENTION, THE CHAIN OF COMMAND GETS MORE CONFUSING AND THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS DECREASE.

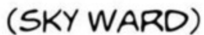

THAT IS COR-RECT...
...THOUGH I WOULD ARGUE A TWO-CELL TEAM SHOULD BE PLENTY.

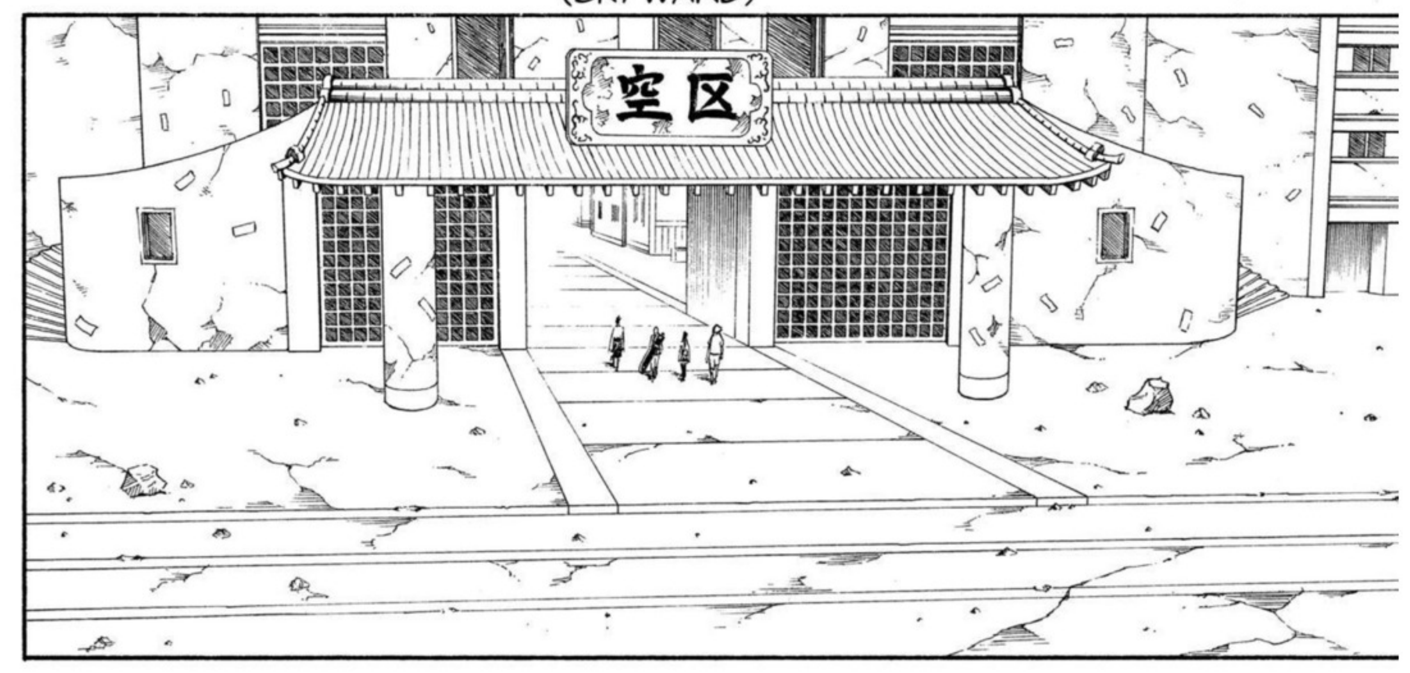

AND SINCE LIVE CAPTURE ALSO REQUIRES MORE FINESSE THAN ASSASSINA-TION...
...YOU WANT SHINOBI WHO'VE WORKED MISSIONS TOGETHER BEFORE TO ENSURE SMOOTH TEAM-WORK...
SHUP


ON THAT NOTE, I'VE ALREADY SUMMONED THE ONES I BELIEVE ARE BEST SUITED FOR THIS MISSION.


COME ON IN, EVERY-BODY.
CLACK




(SKY WARD)

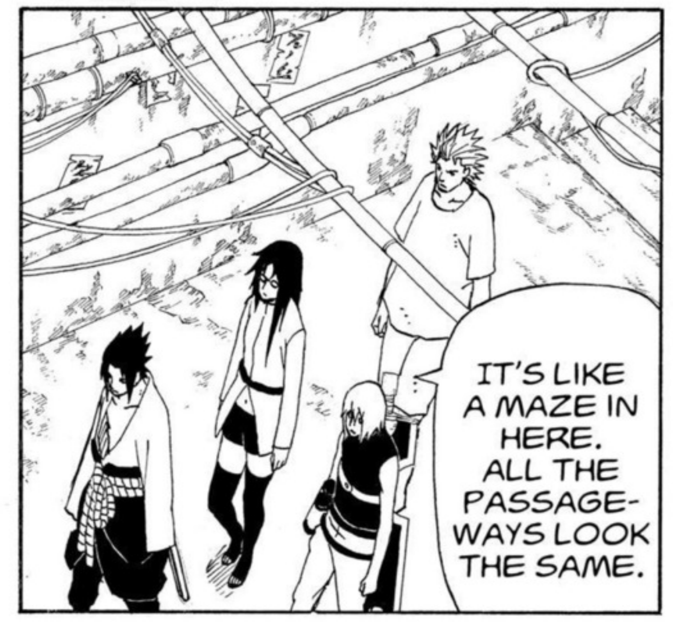

空区




I NEVER KNEW WE HAD A HIDEOUT IN SUCH A WASTE-LAND...


READ
THIS
WAY

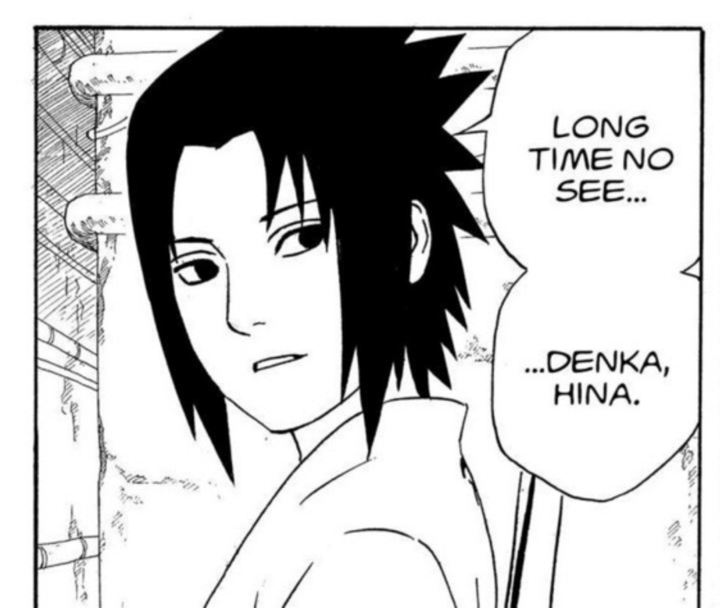

THIS PLACE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OROCHI-MARU.
IT'S A MUNITIONS STORE THAT MY CLAN USED TO USE.
THIS IS WHERE WE'LL OUTFIT OUR-SELVES FOR BATTLE.


IT'S LIKE A MAZE IN HERE. ALL THE PASSAGE-WAYS LOOK THE SAME.


WHAT AN IRRITATING PLACE... IT'S STIFLING.
YOU'RE WELCOME TO LEAVE.


?!

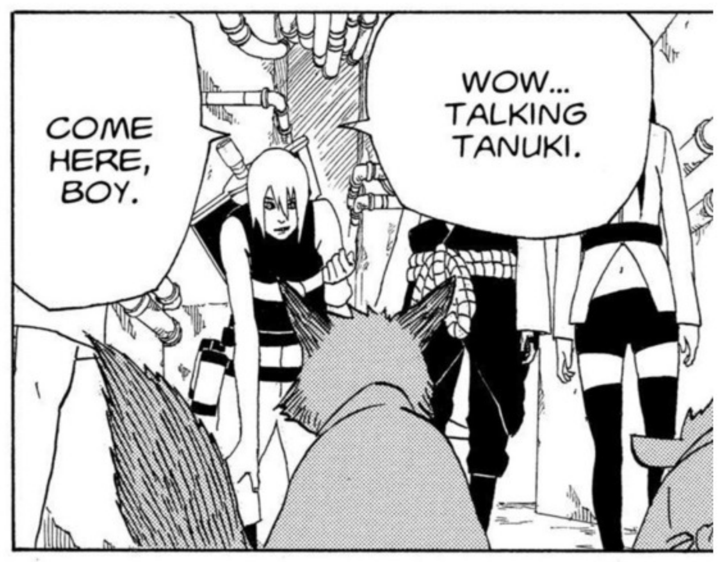

HUH?


LONG TIME NO SEE...
...DENKA, HINA.

IT **IS** YOU, SASUKE BOY...
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE, MEW?

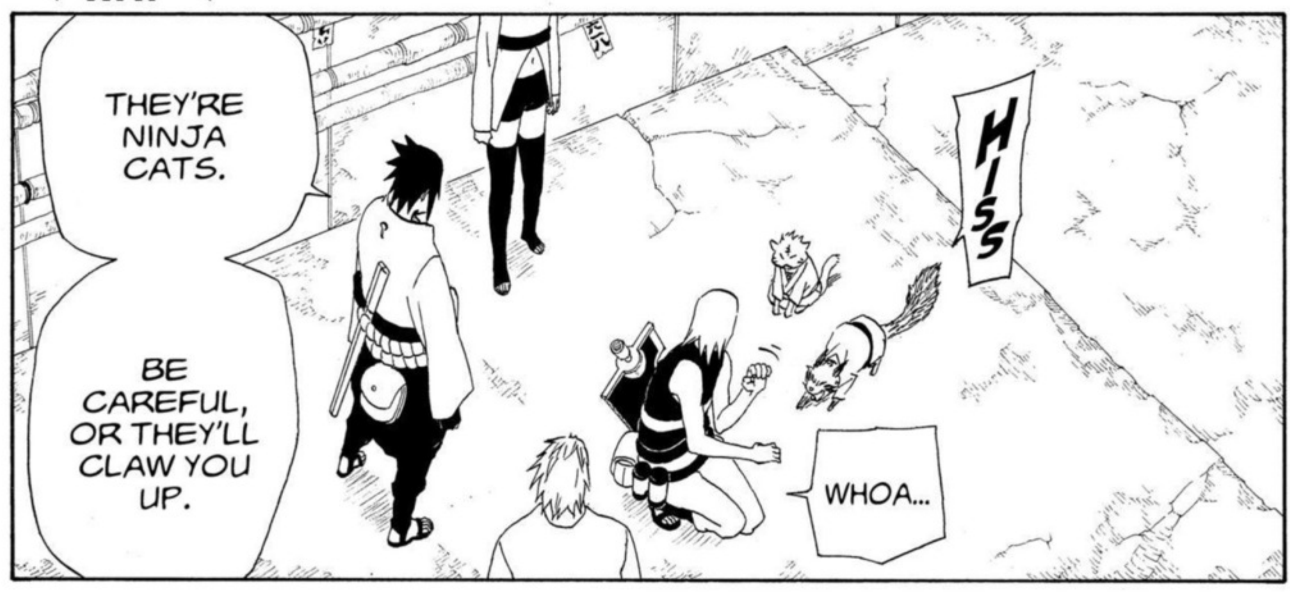




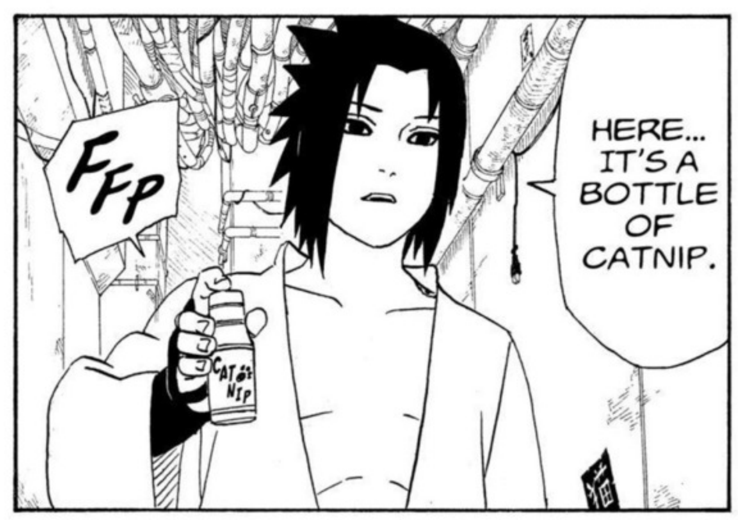




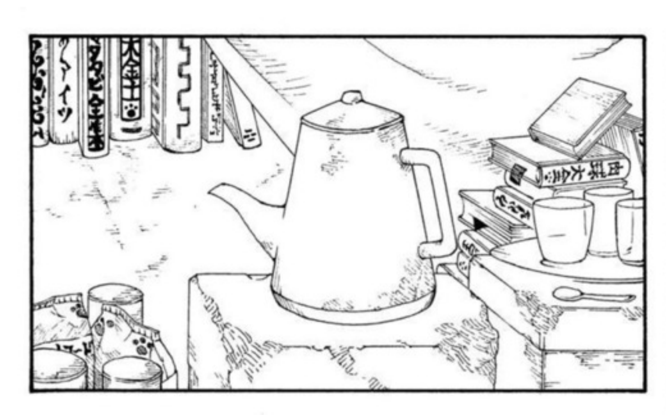

READ THIS WAY

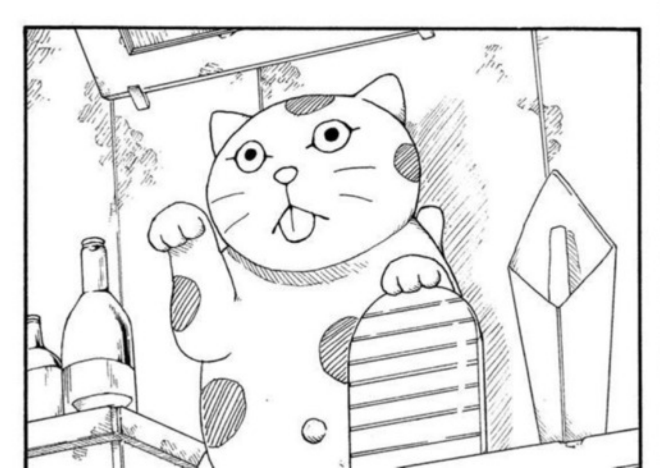

HISS
WHOA...
THEY'RE NINJA CATS.
BE CAREFUL, OR THEY'LL CLAW YOU UP.


YOU BROUGHT GIFTS, MEW?

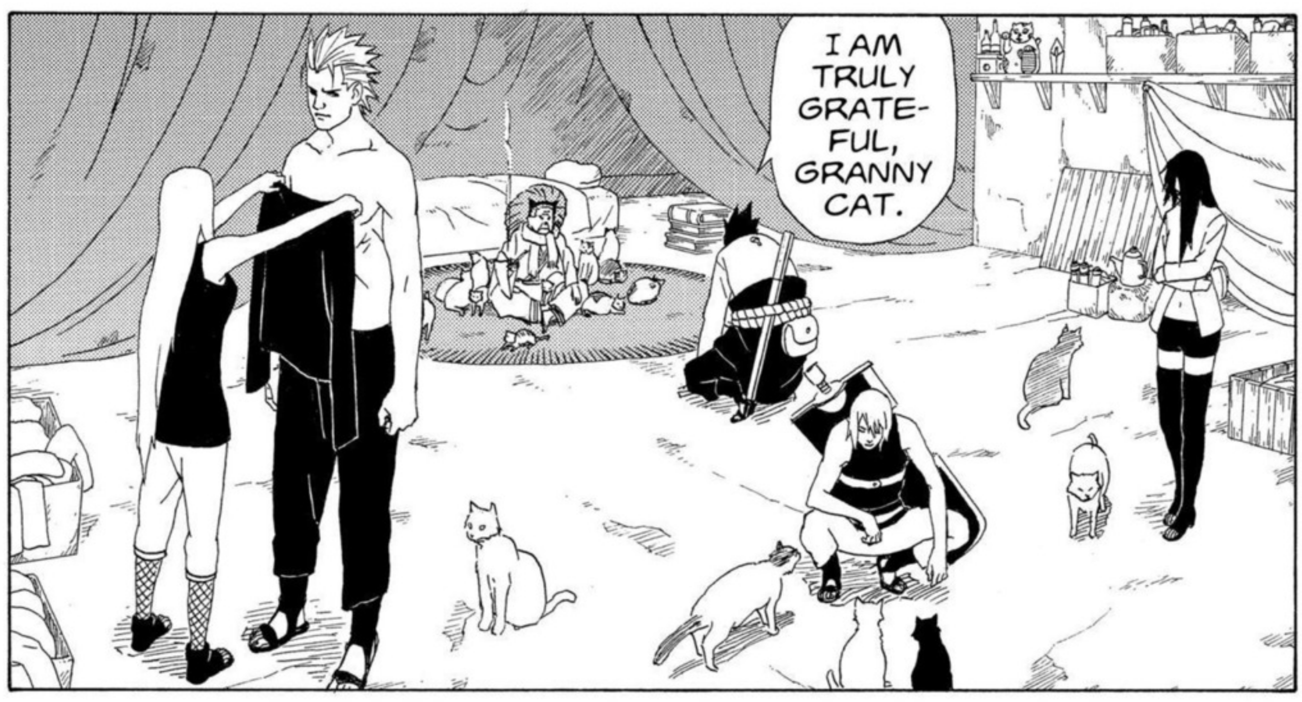

HERE... IT'S A BOTTLE OF CATNIP.
FFP
CAT NIP


COME ALONG.
SHUP...
GRANNY CAT WILL SEE YOU.

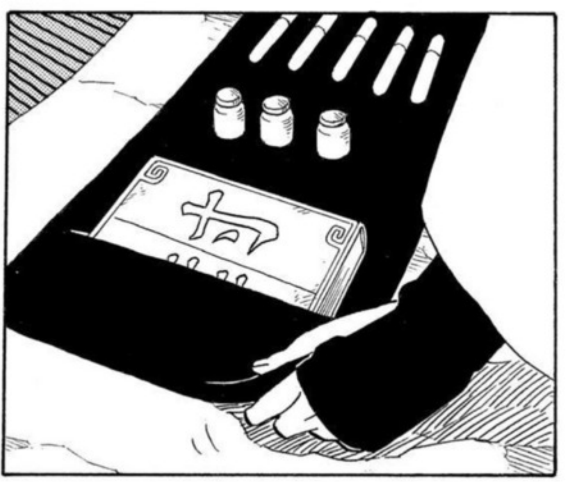




HISS


I AM TRULY GRATEFUL, GRANNY CAT.


SO. YOU'RE STILL GOING AFTER ITACHI?

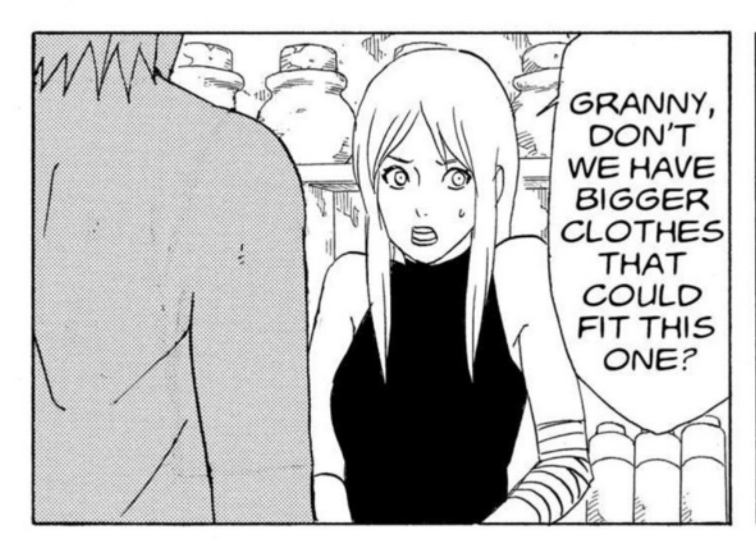



READ
THIS
WAY

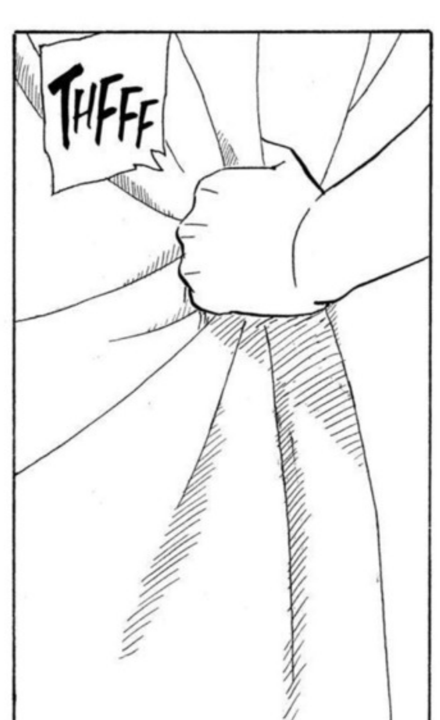

...
CINCH


I'VE KNOWN THE BOTH OF YOU SINCE YOU WERE WEE THINGS...
I NEVER IMAGINED IT WOULD COME TO THIS.
TODAY, YOU ARE THE ONLY TWO REMAINING UCHIHA...
...AND YET, YOU MUST KILL EACH OTHER...


WE'LL BE GOING NOW.
THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE...
FFT


GRANNY, DON'T WE HAVE BIGGER CLOTHES THAT COULD FIT THIS ONE?

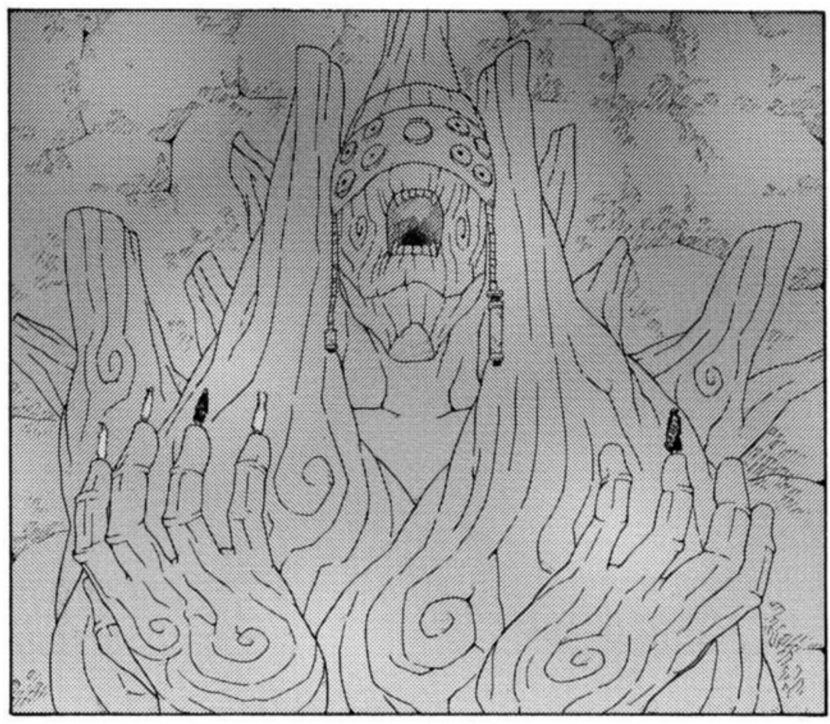

WRAP HIM IN THAT CURTAIN OVER THERE, THEN.
WE'RE NOT A CLOTHING STORE.
GRANNY! WE'RE BEING PAID!

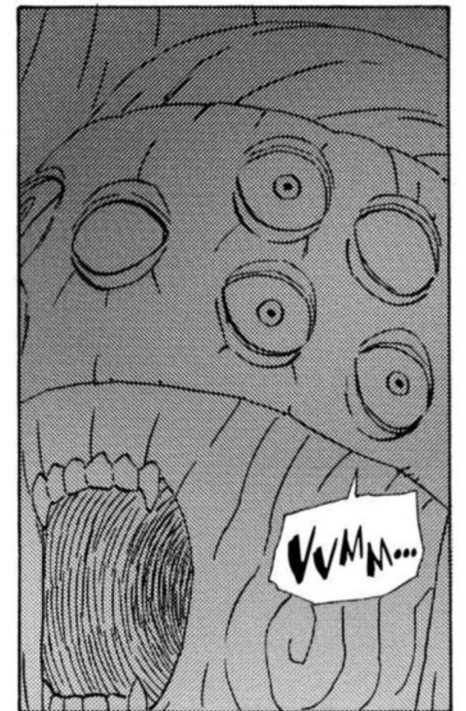

THFFF

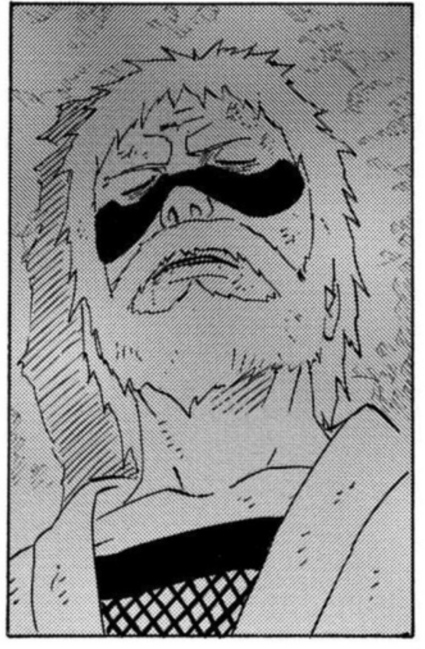

WHSSH

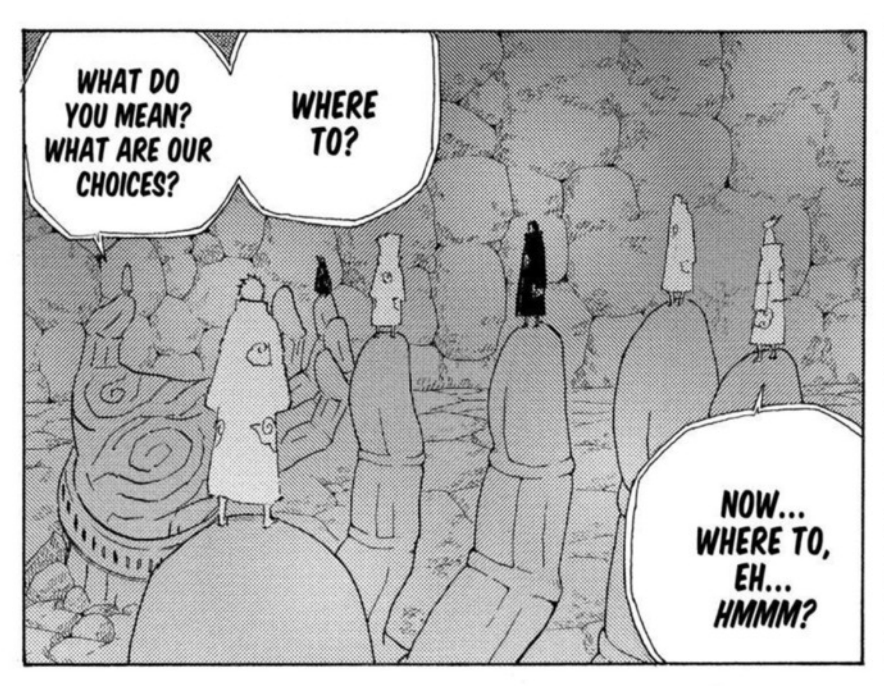
HMM...
THAP


READ
THIS
WAY

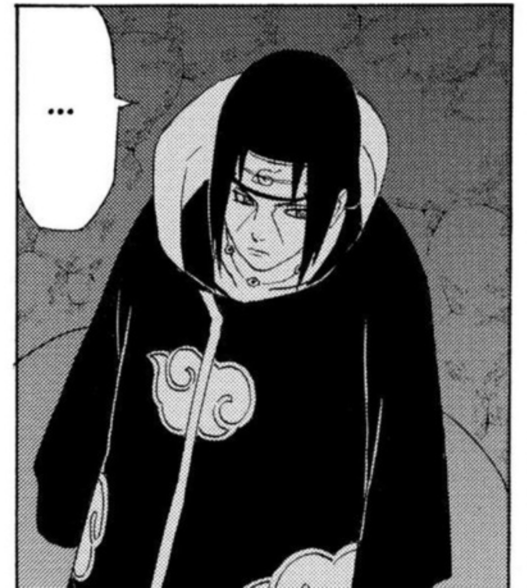



VVMM...




NOW... WHERE TO, EH... HMMM?
WHERE TO?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT ARE OUR CHOICES?

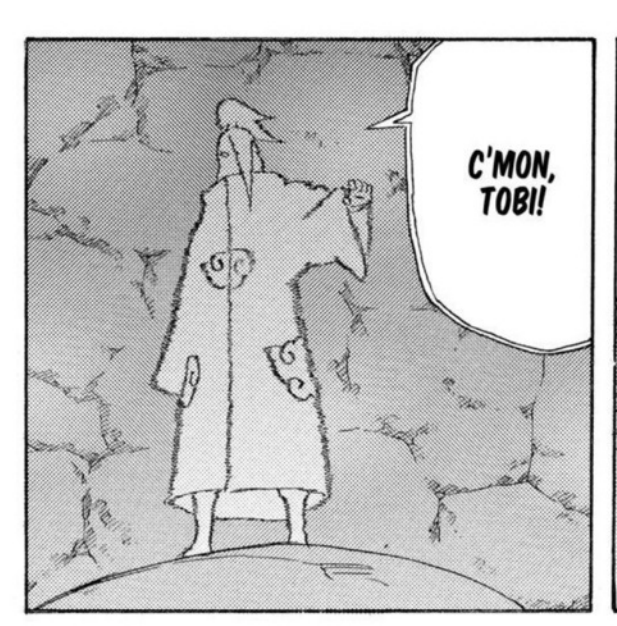

NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI, LED BY KAKASHI...
...OR UCHIHA SASUKE.

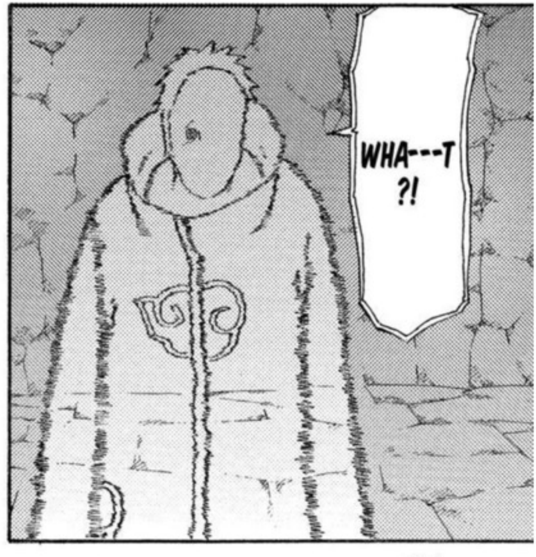

...

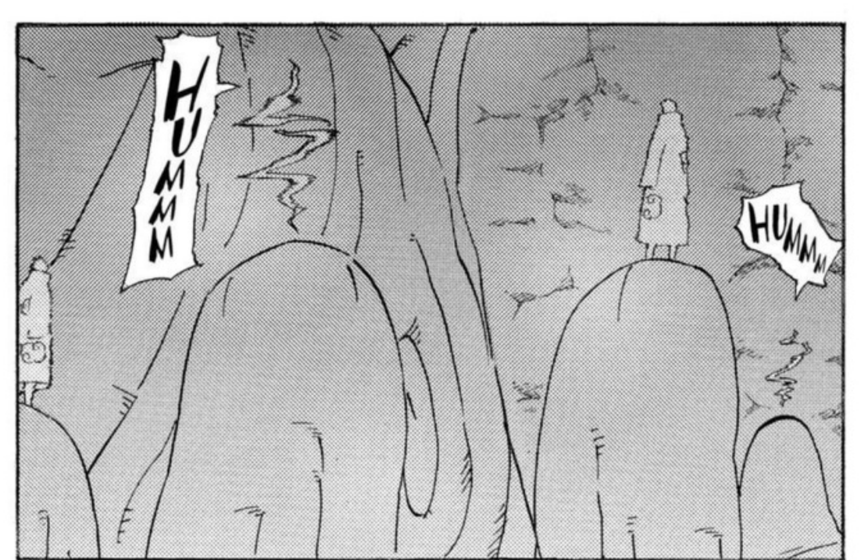

WHAT ABOUT NEITHER?!
I MEAN, WE'VE ACHIEVED OUR OBJECTIVE!


ARE YOU KIDDING? I STILL OWE NINE TAILS' JINCHÛRIKI FOR THE BEATING HE GAVE ME...
...AND KAKASHI FOR TAKING MY RIGHT ARM, HMMM?

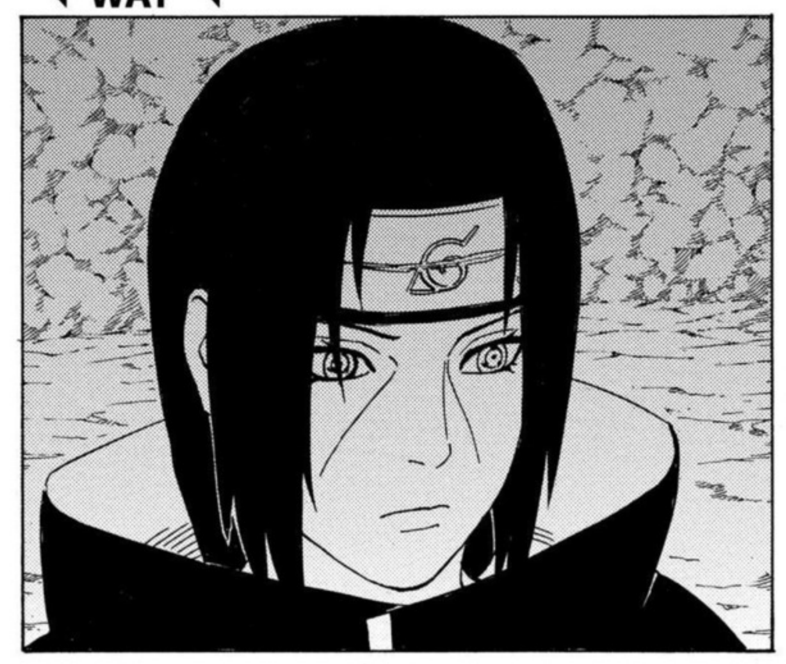

AND I CAN'T FORGIVE UCHIHA SASUKE EITHER...
...FOR DENYING ME OROCHIMARU.

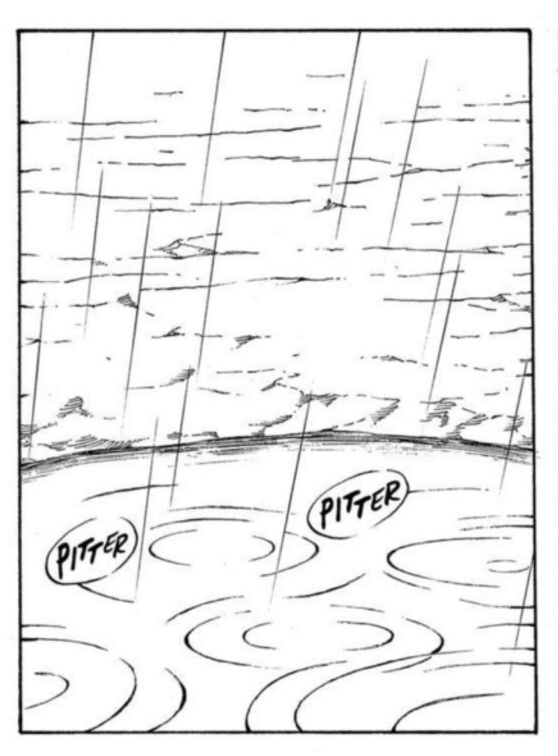

C'MON, TOBI!

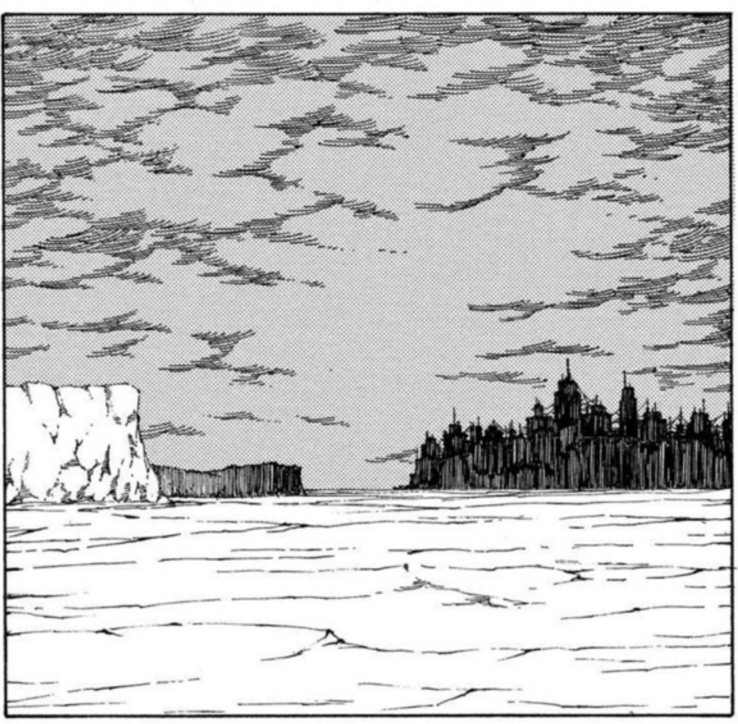

WHA---T ?!


HUMMM
HUMMM

READ THIS WAY






SP LOOOSH
LET'S DO IT.



I THINK THE RAIN'S PERFECT FOR COOLING DOWN THOSE WHO ARE A BIT TOO FIRED UP.

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE!! LET'S GO!!















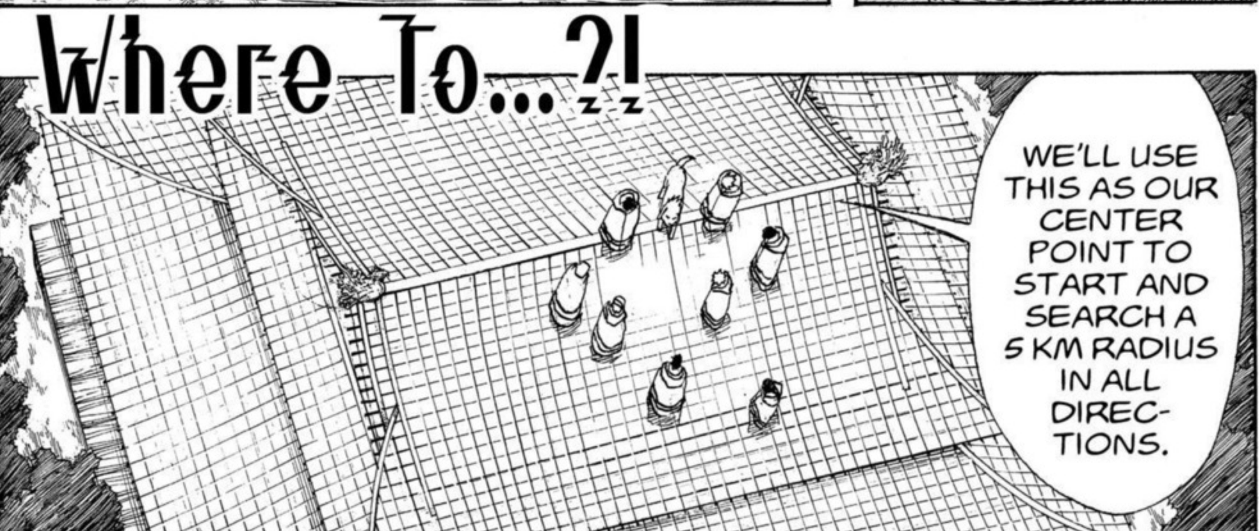


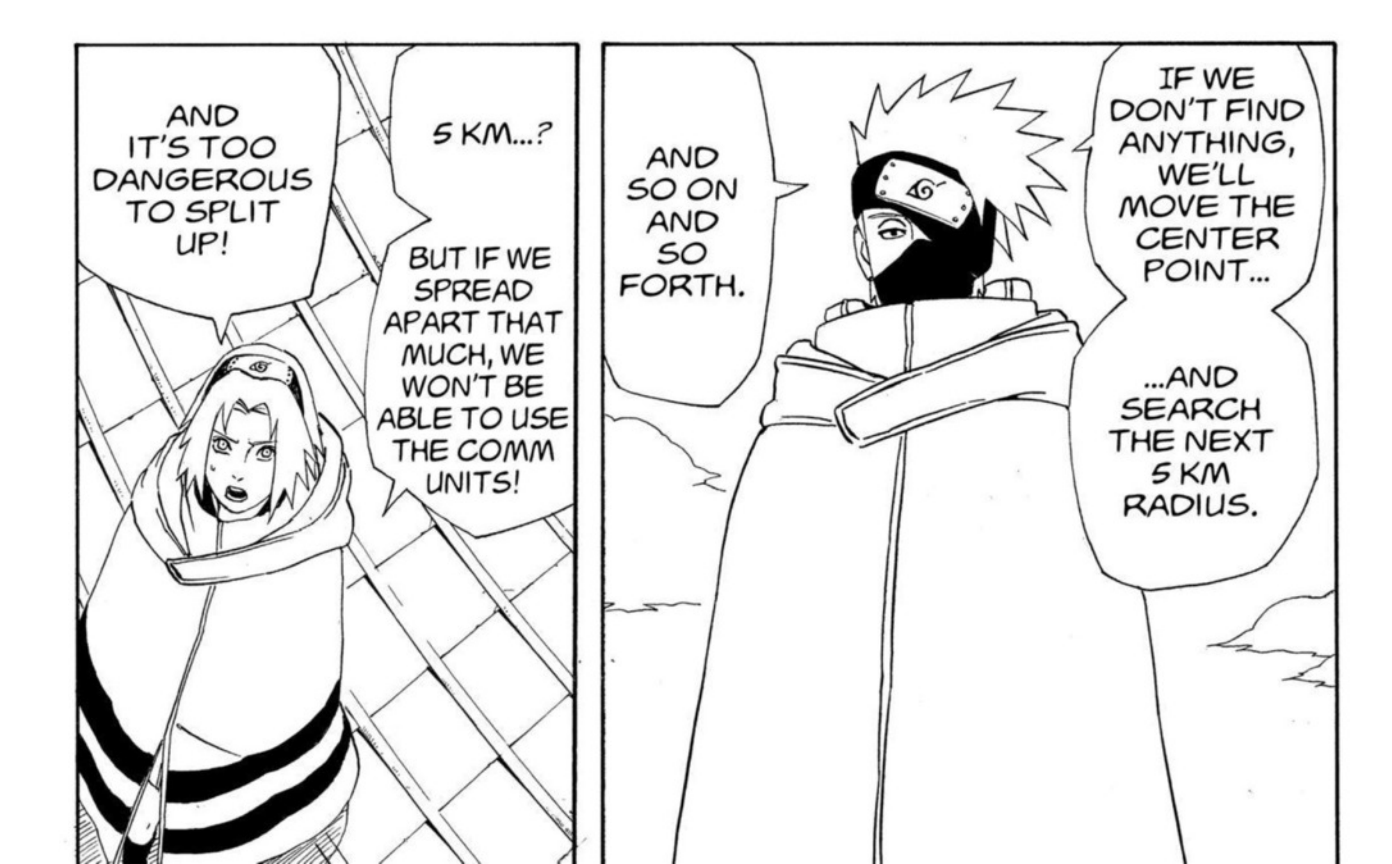


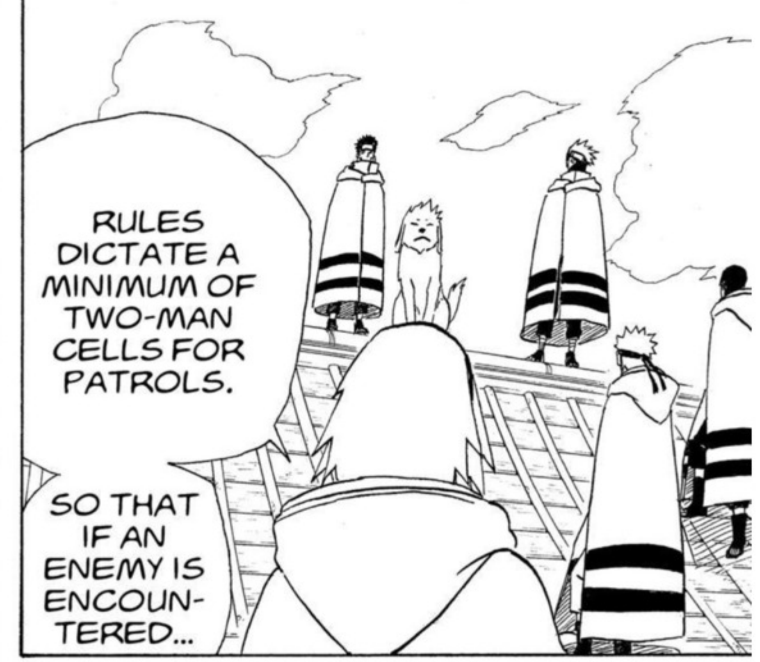




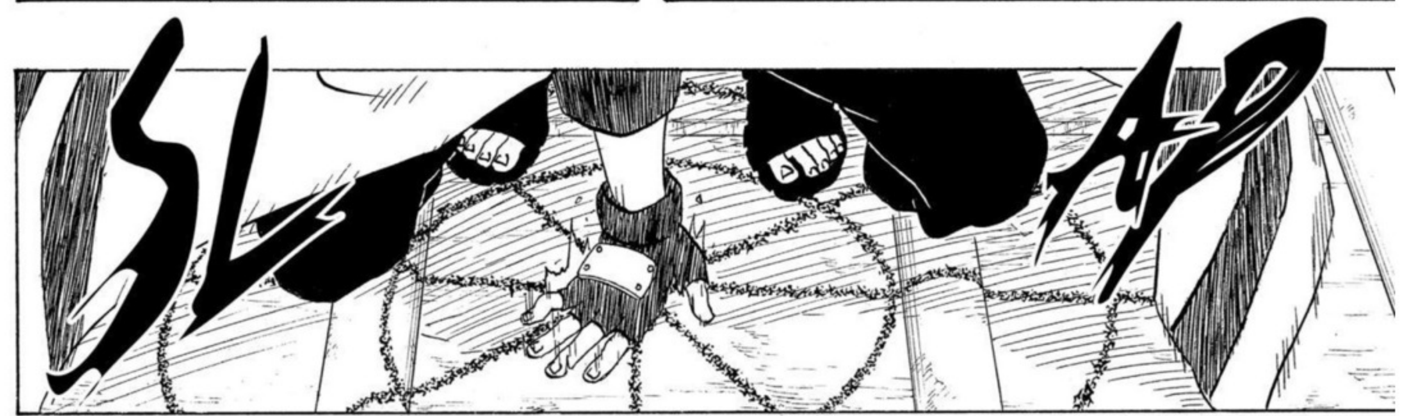
Number 355: Where To...?!











OUR VOICES REACH FARTHER THAN ANY COMM UNIT.

PLUS, OUR NOSES CAN DETECT DANGER FASTER AND WE CAN ASSIST YOU IN BATTLES.

BOOF

BOOF

BOOF

BOOF


READ
THIS
WAY


...!
PAKKUN!


ALL RIGHT, LET ME EXPLAIN THE TEAM ROSTERS FOR OUR PATROLS.
TO BE SAFE, I'M ASSIGNING EACH PERSON TWO NINJA DOGS.


TWO...?
HUH?
BUT THERE AREN'T ...

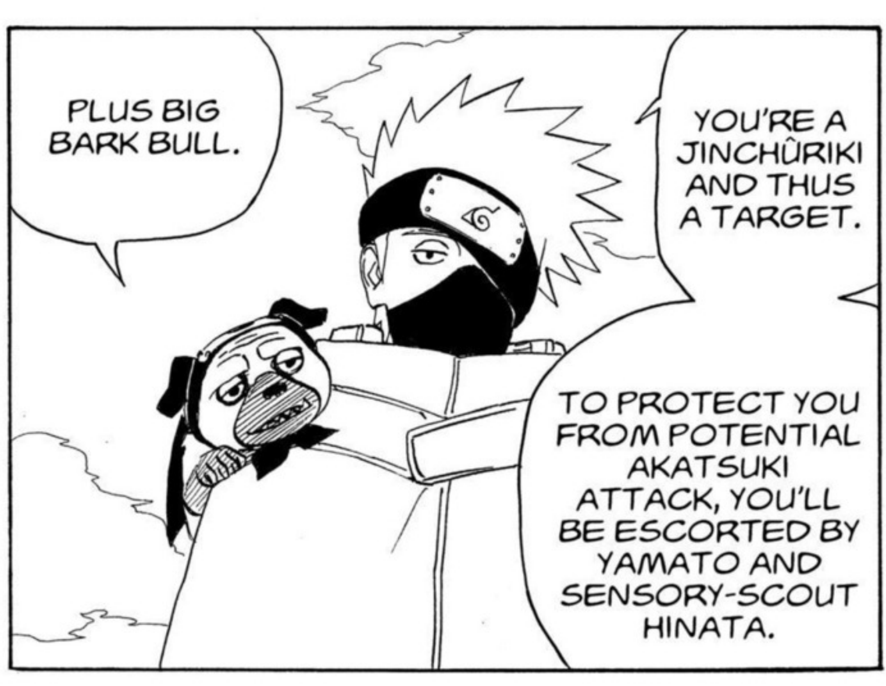

SO PLEASE PLAY NICE, OK?
SHF


NICE TO MEET YOU, SAKURA.
!
YOU'RE SUCH A LOUD-MOUTHED FEMALE.


I'M GOING WITH SHINO, WOOF.
HMM...


NICE TO MEET YOU.
CACKLE CACKLE CACKLE


HEY! WHAT ABOUT ME?

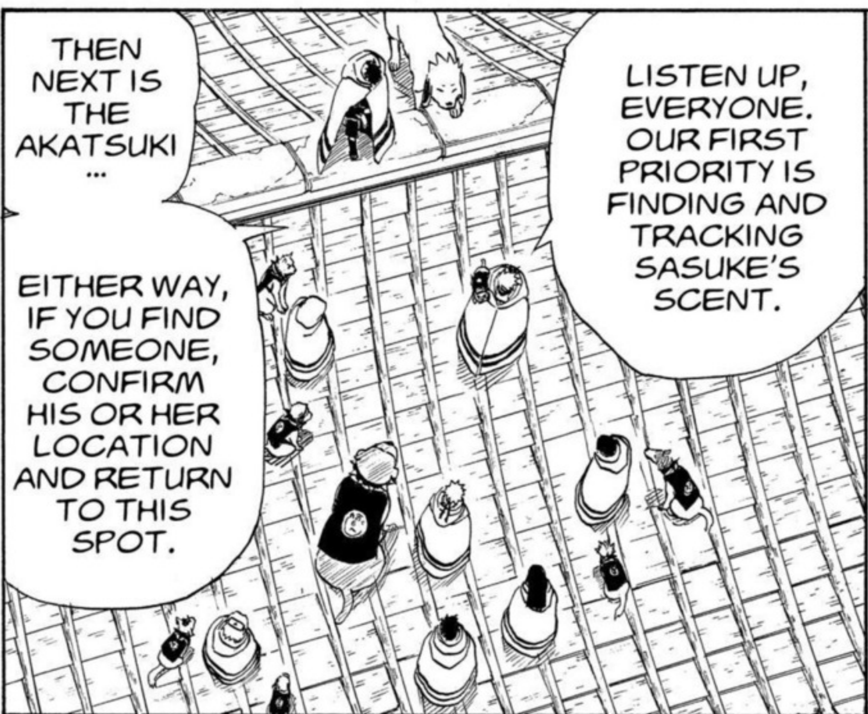

YOU'RE A JINCHÛRIKI AND THUS A TARGET.
TO PROTECT YOU FROM POTENTIAL AKATSUKI ATTACK, YOU'LL BE ESCORTED BY YAMATO AND SENSORY-SCOUT HINATA.
PLUS BIG BARK BULL.


WOOF!
G...GOOD TO WORK WITH YOU, NARUTO.

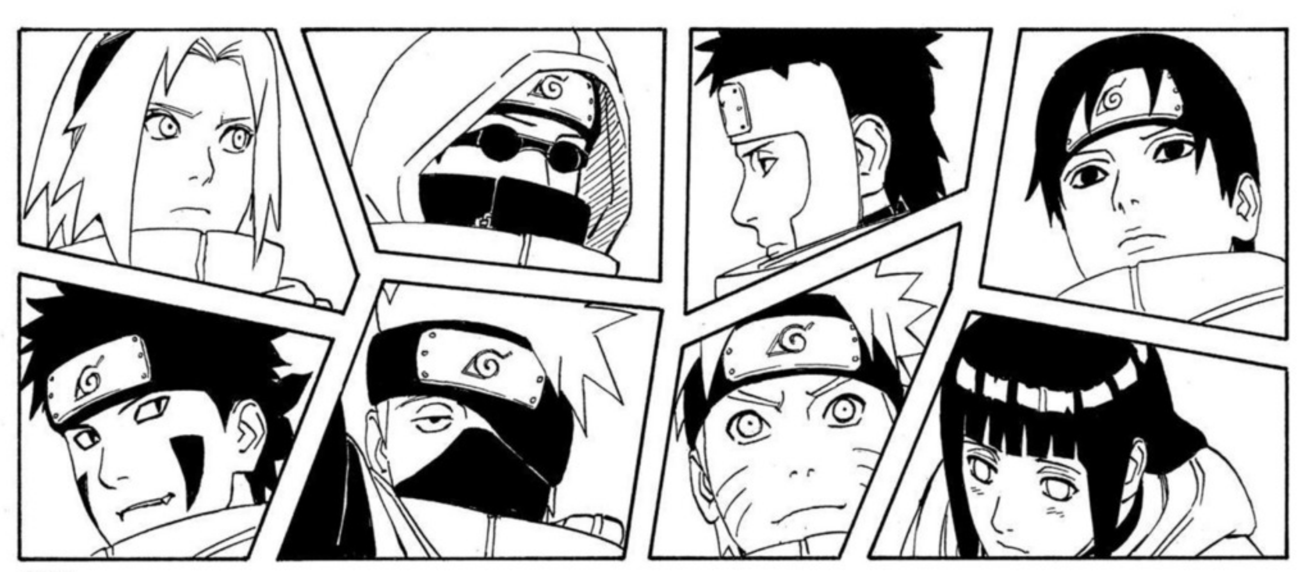

...YUP!


READ THIS WAY


AND KIBA AND I, WHO ARE USED TO WORKING WITH NINJA DOGS, WILL ONLY HAVE ONE EACH.
WE'RE READY TO GO!

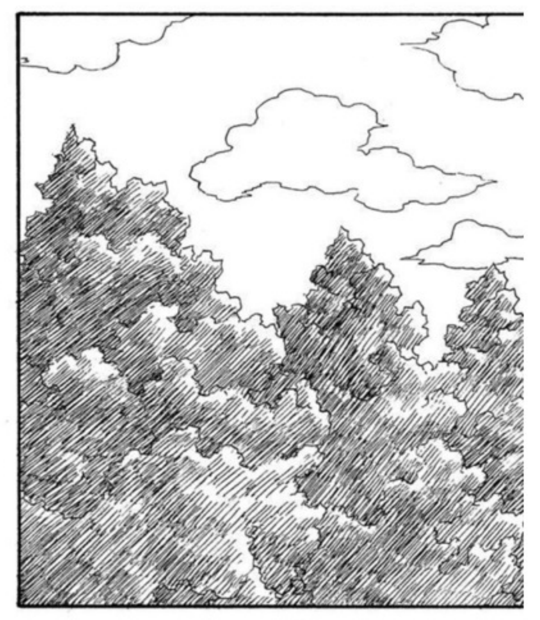

LISTEN UP, EVERYONE. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS FINDING AND TRACKING SASUKE'S SCENT.
THEN NEXT IS THE AKATSUKI ...
EITHER WAY, IF YOU FIND SOMEONE, CONFIRM HIS OR HER LOCATION AND RETURN TO THIS SPOT.


FFT

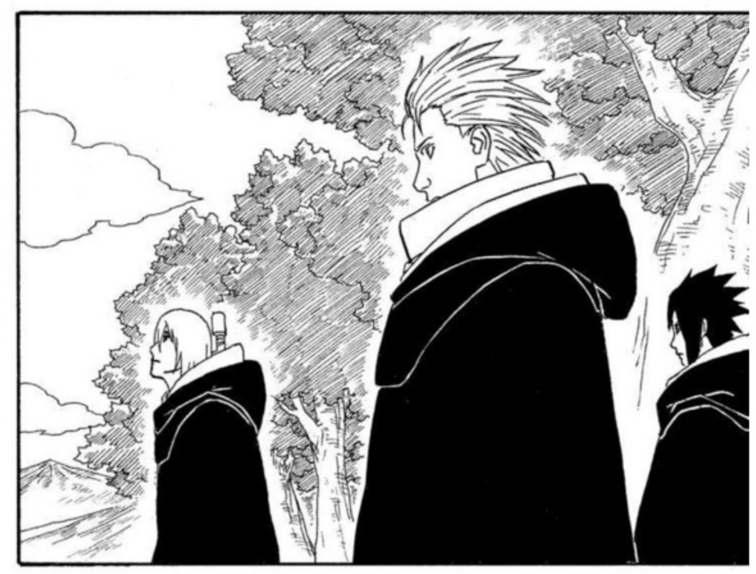


VOOSH

GO!!



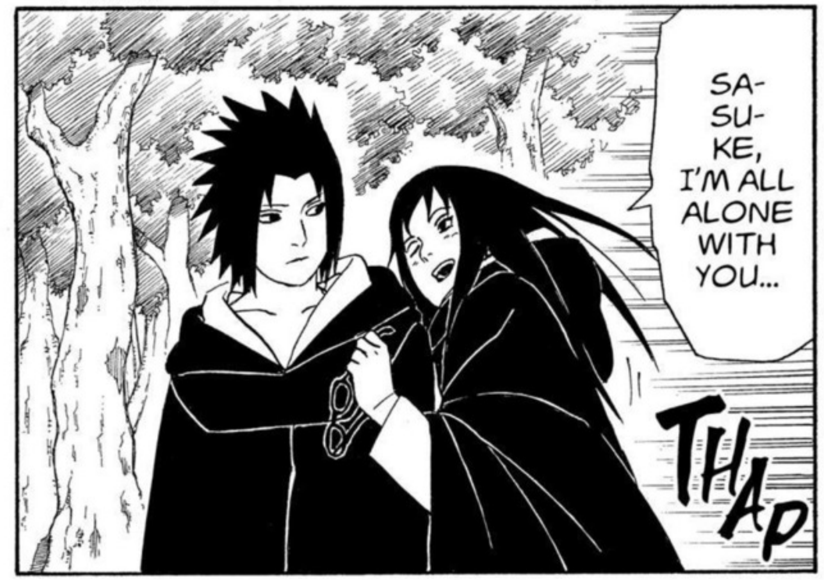







READ THIS WAY

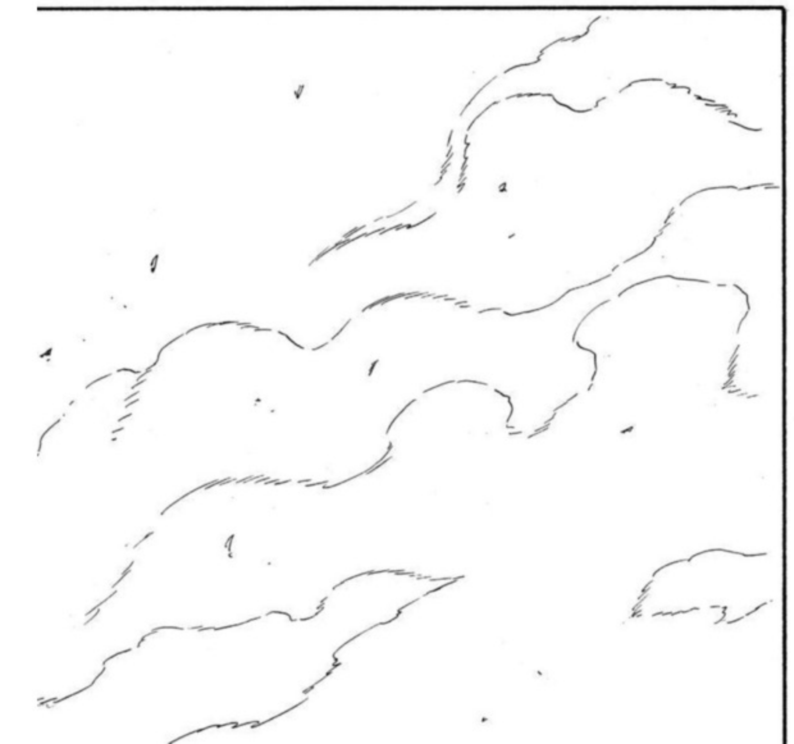

OH, YEAH!


SA- SU- KE, I'M ALL ALONE WITH YOU...
THAP


HURRY UP AND HEAD OUT.


GAH!
SHUF...



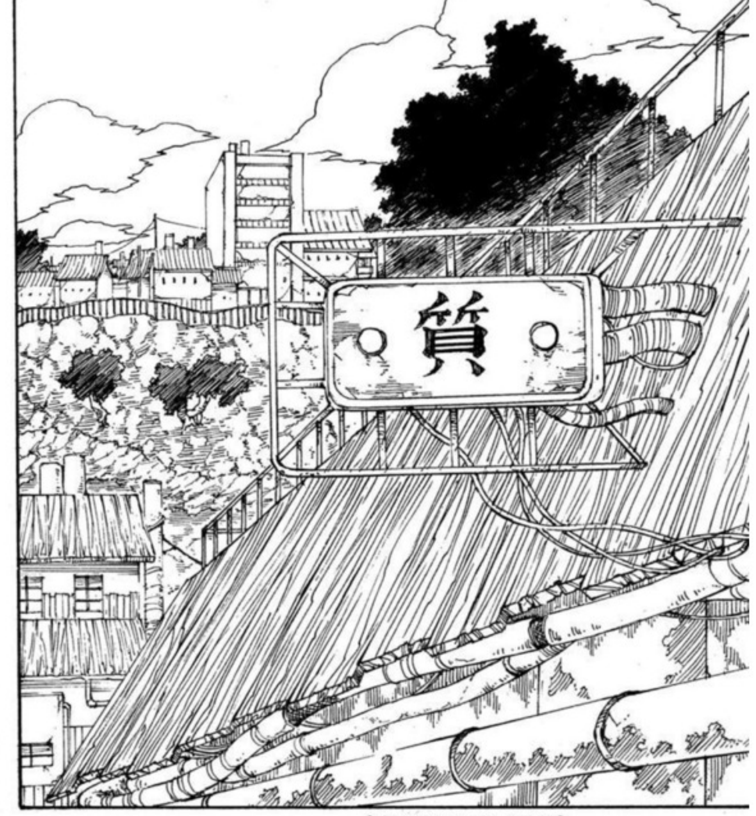



AS GOOD AS NEW... *HMMM?*


SO... WHICH IS IT?
SASUKE OR NINE TAILS...?

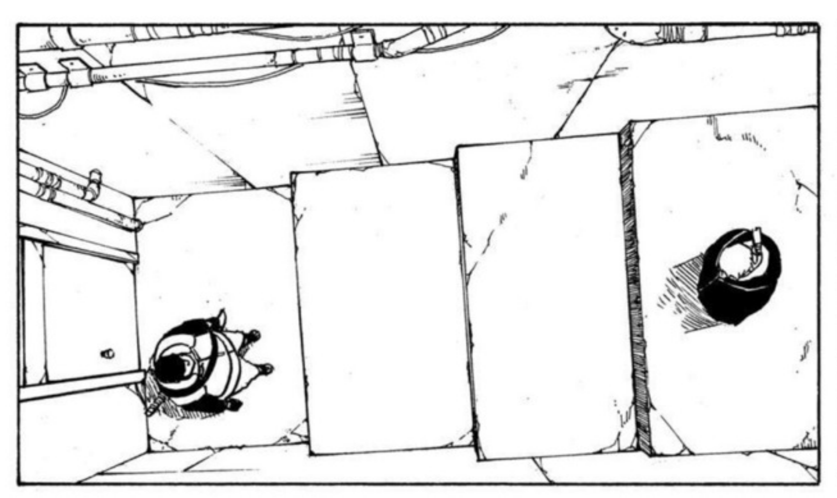

TAK
NOW... WHICH SHALL IT BE, *HMMM?*


FLAP


質
(PAWN SHOP)


WHO THE HECK ARE YOU?


HE'LL FORGIVE ME... IF IT'S A LACKEY ...




?!
THUNK


!
GO TAKE A LOOK.

CLACK









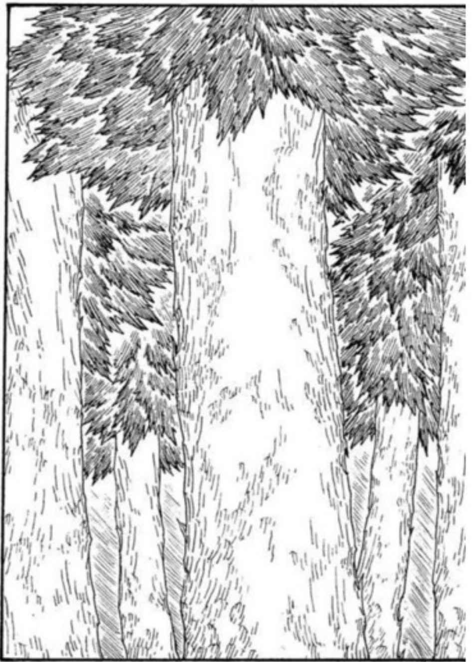


YOU'RE THAT AKATSUKI MEMBER KAKUZU'S SUBORDINATE AND BOOK-KEEPER, RIGHT?

UNH... UGH...

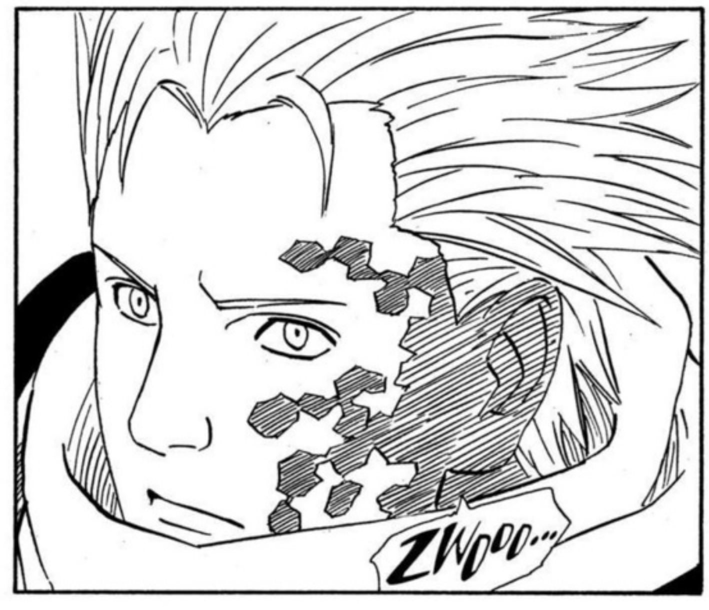


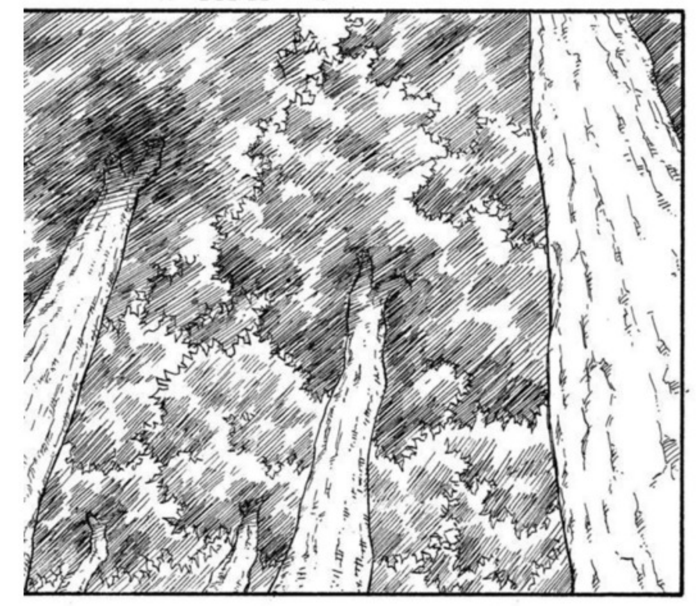


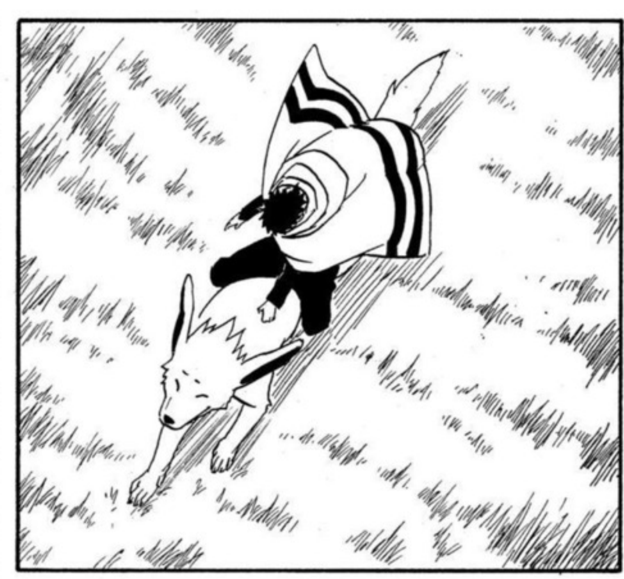


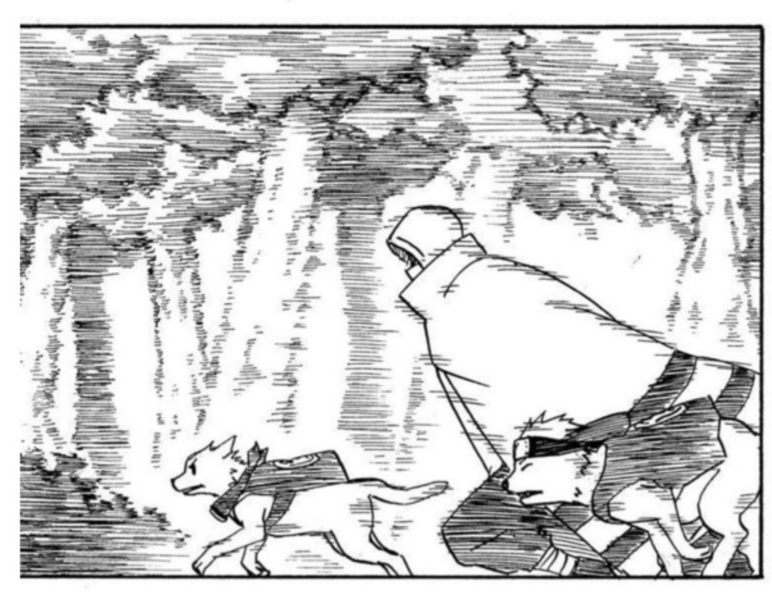



READ
THIS
WAY

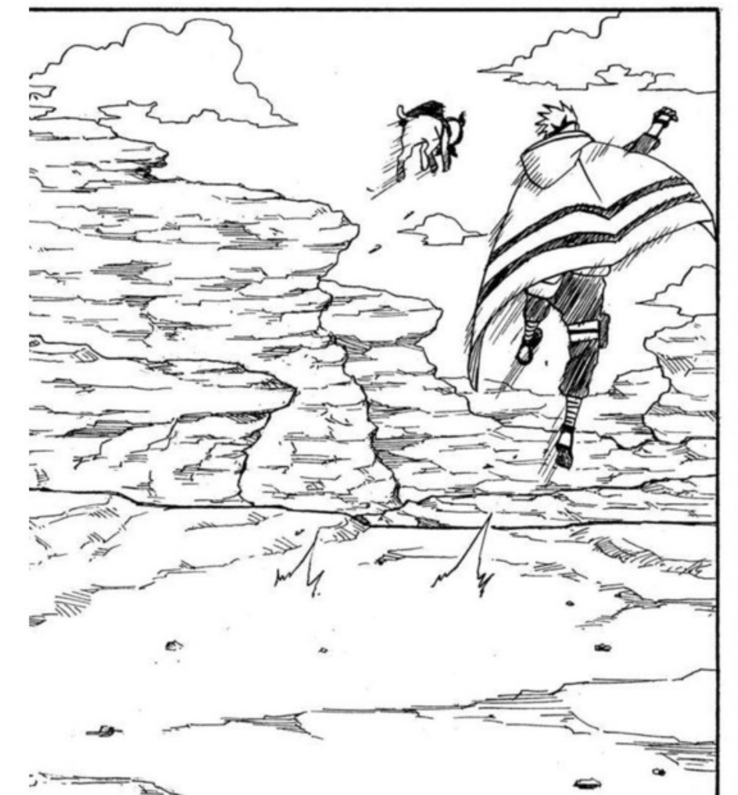

ZWOOO...



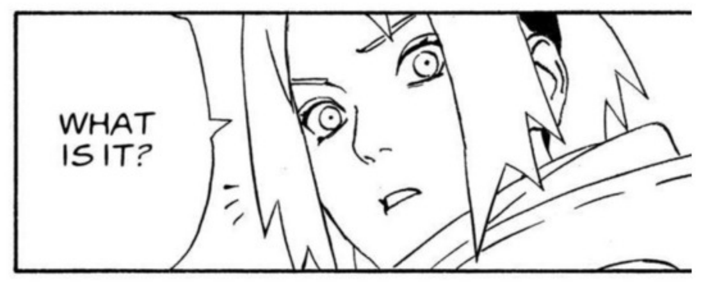


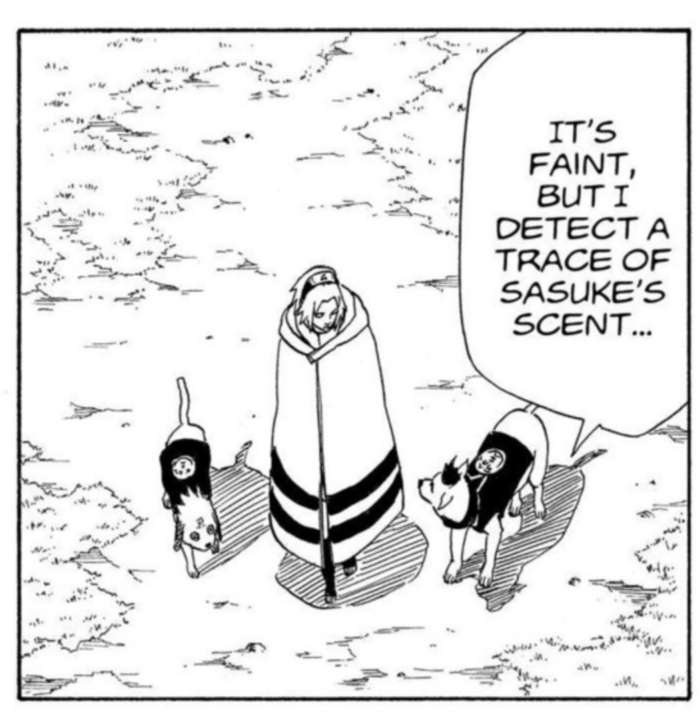


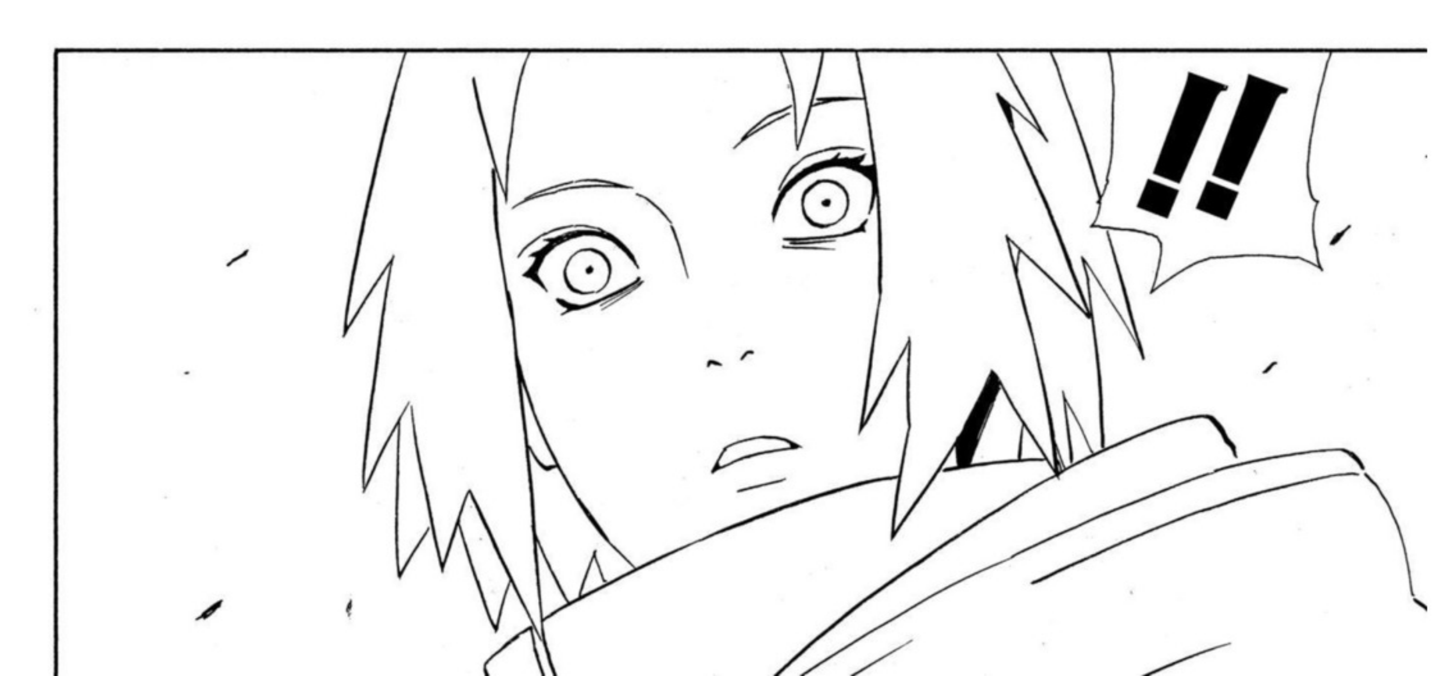





!
SNIFF SNIFF


WHAT IS IT?

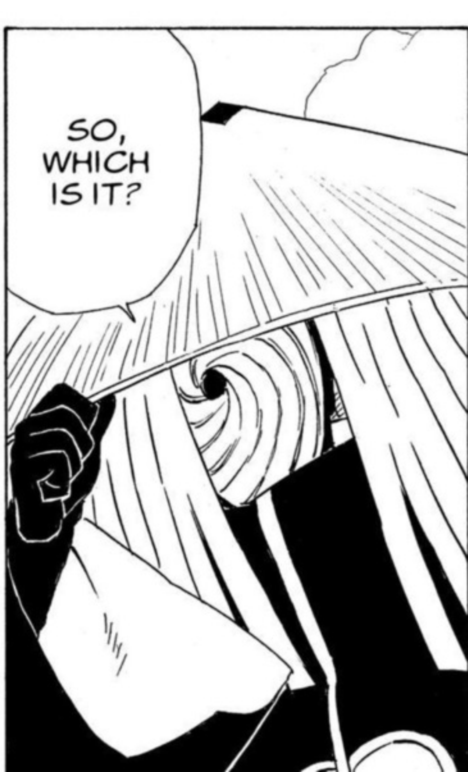

IT'S FAINT, BUT I DETECT A TRACE OF SASUKE'S SCENT...


!!

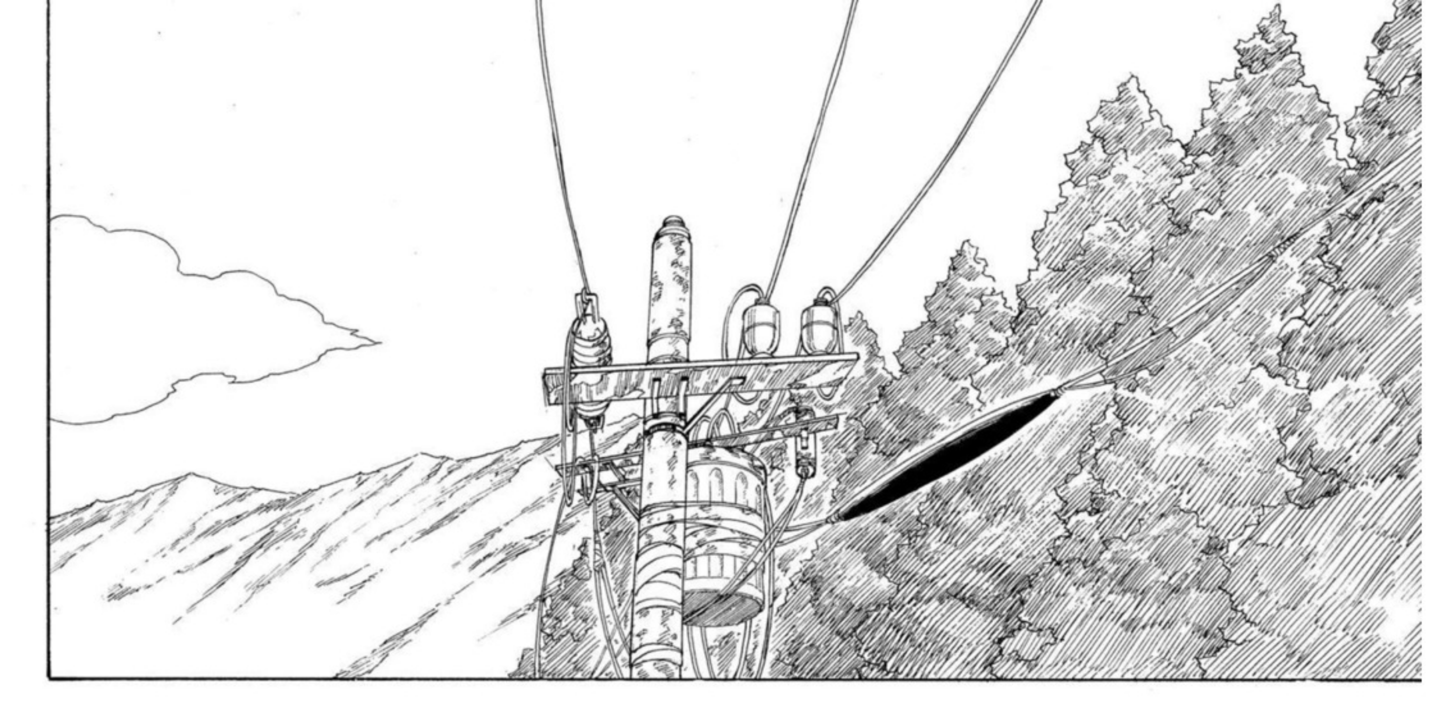



!


FOUND HIM, TOBI... HMMM?
SERIOUSLY?! THAT WAS QUICK!

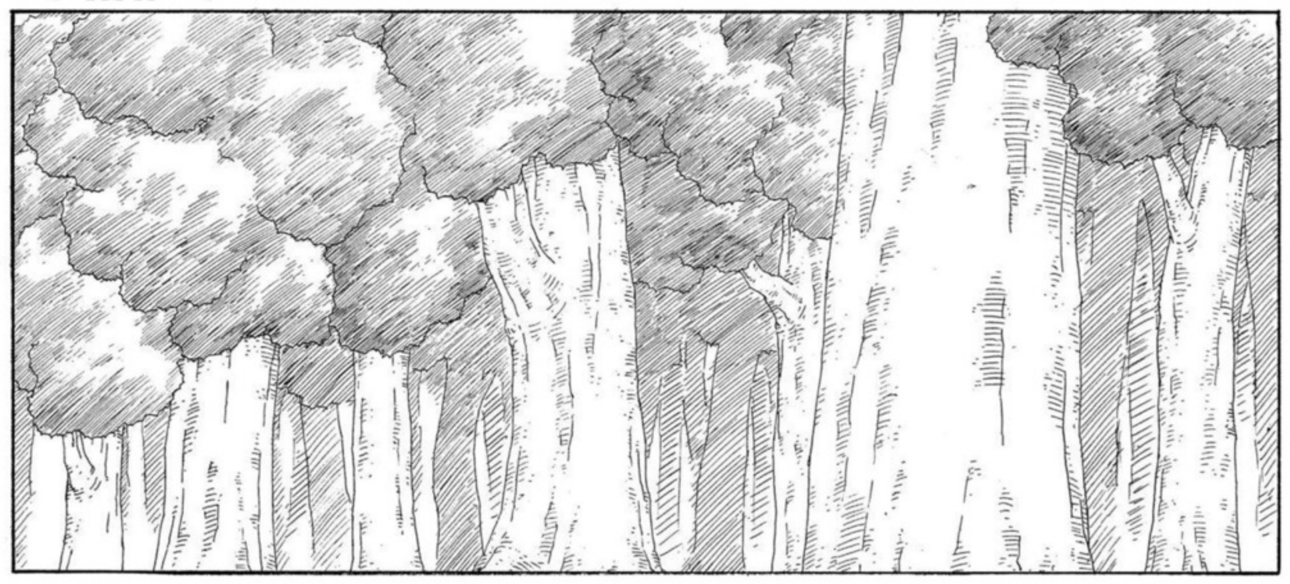

SO, WHICH IS IT?


HEH...
COME ALONG, TOBI.



FFT..





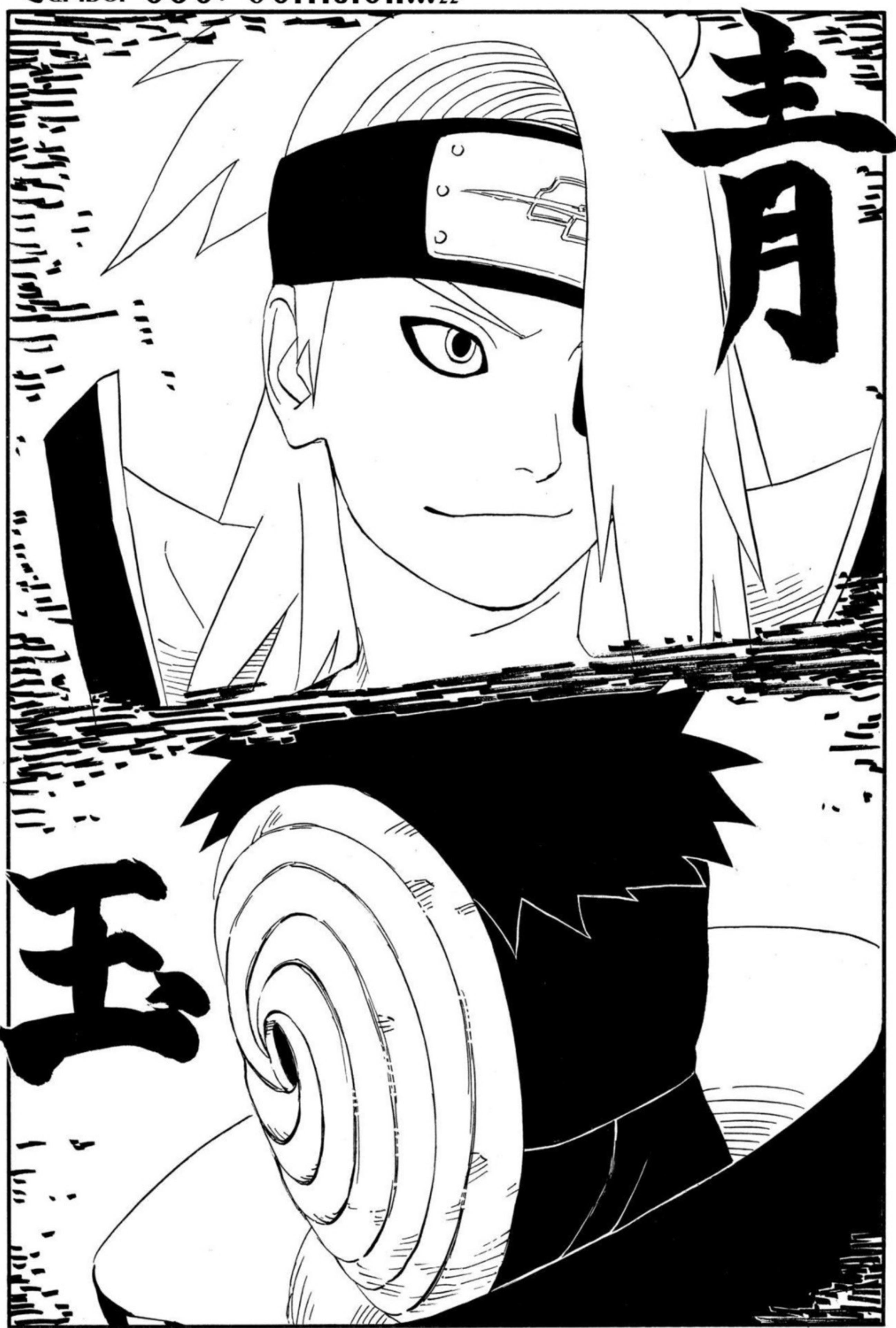
FFT...

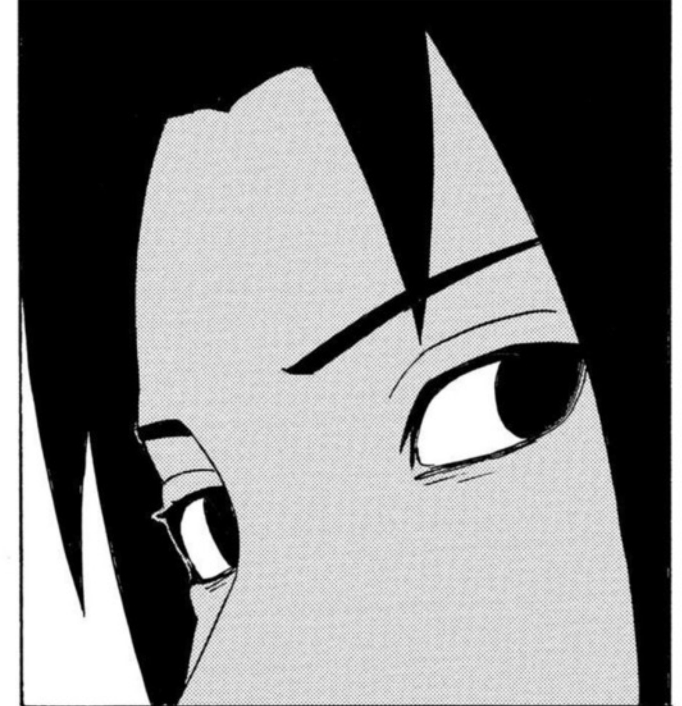
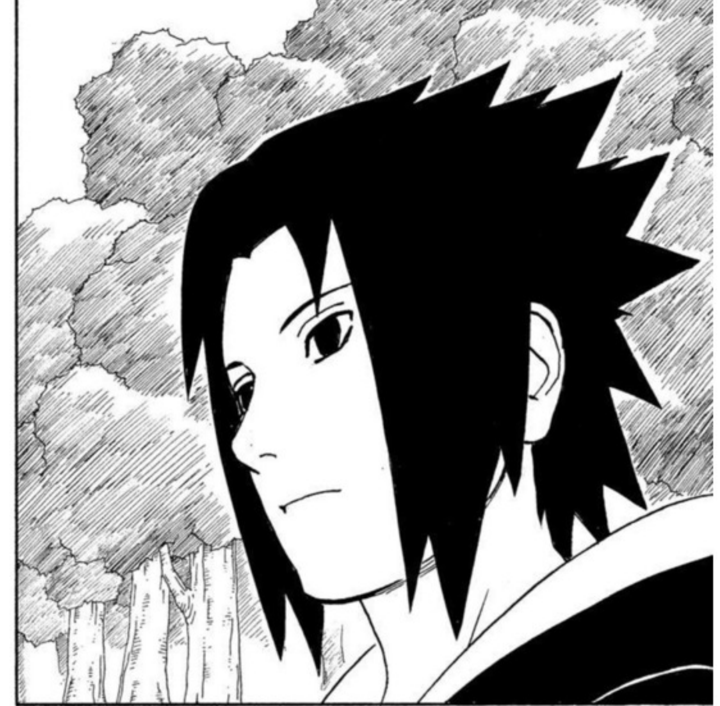
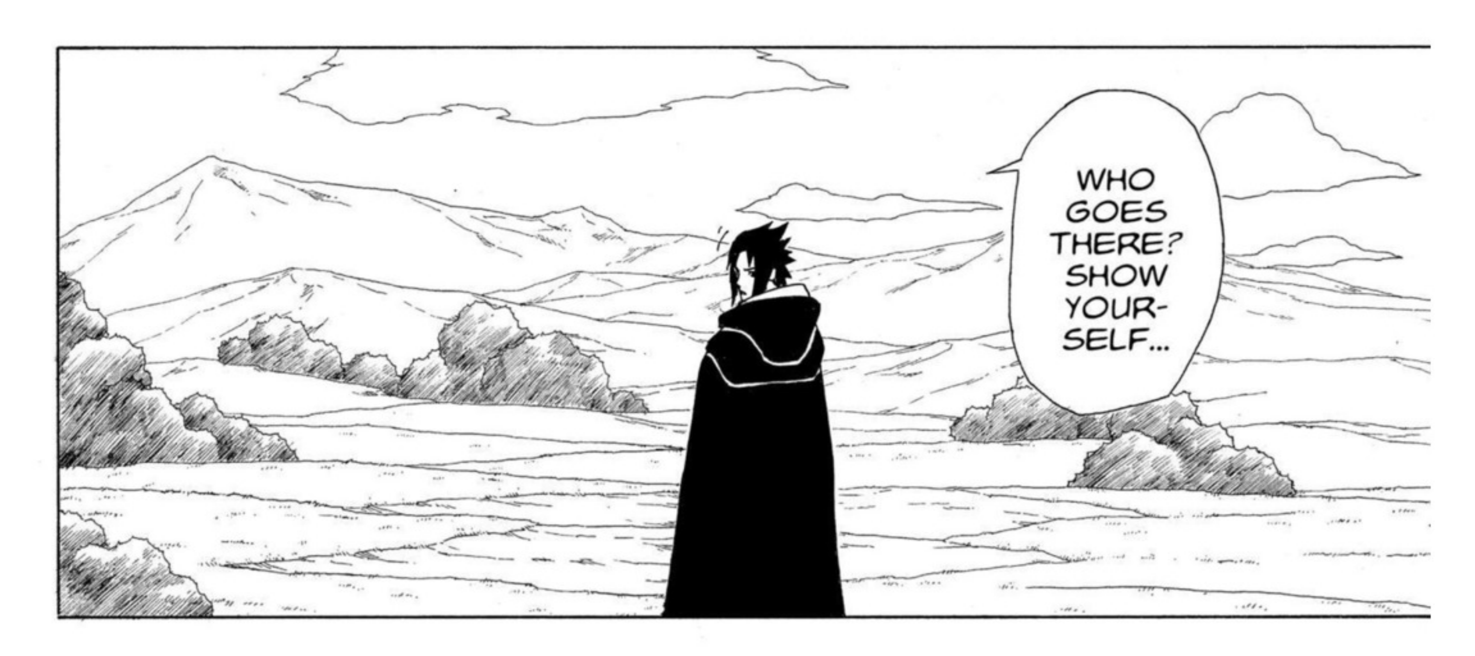

Number 356: Collision...!!


NARUTO



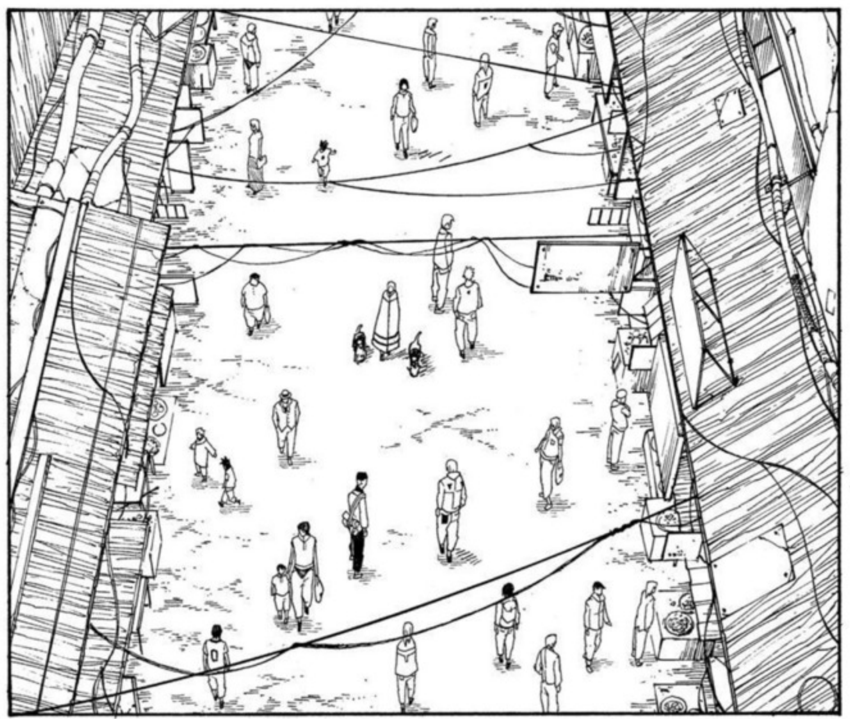
Number 356: Collision...!!

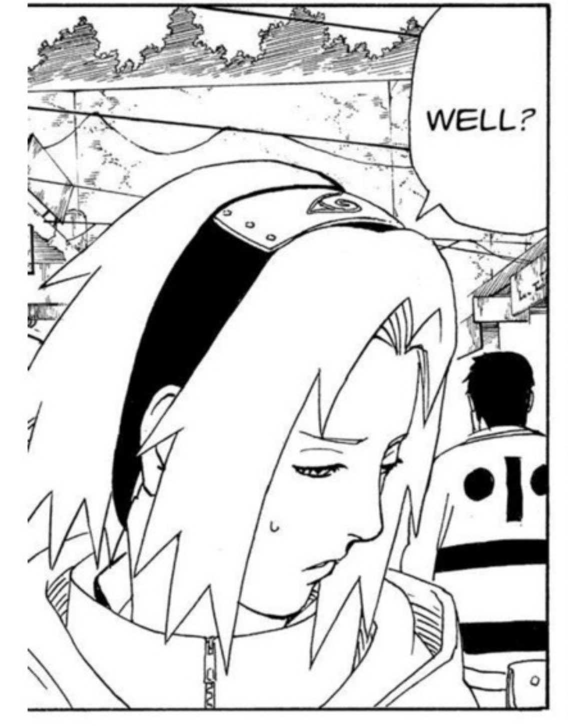





WHO GOES THERE? SHOW YOURSELF...

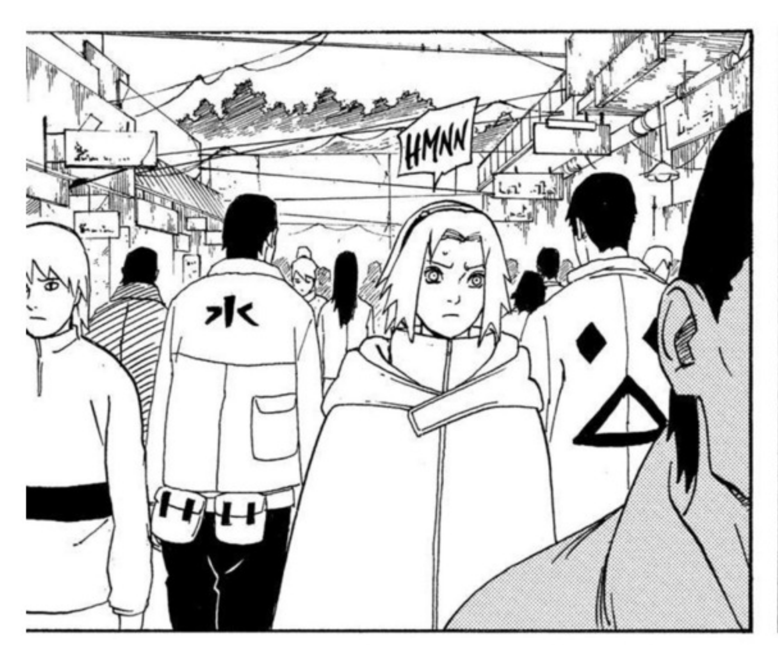
FFT


READ THIS WAY



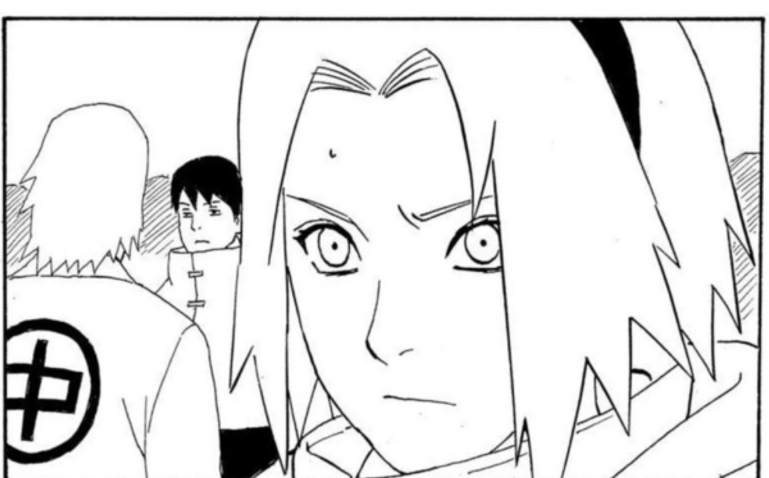

WELL?


I CAN'T PIN-POINT IT BETTER ...
...BUT IT'S DEF-INITELY HEADING OUR WAY.
SNIFF SNIFF

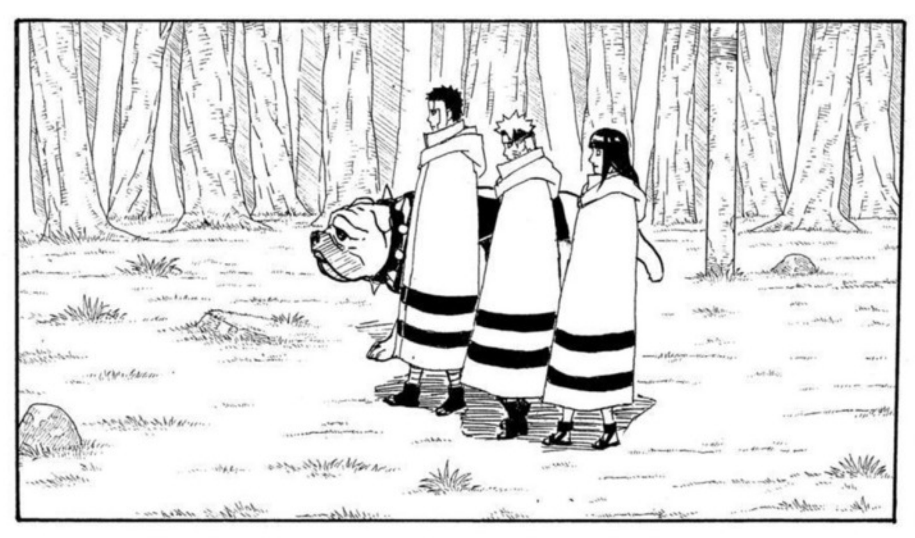

HMNN

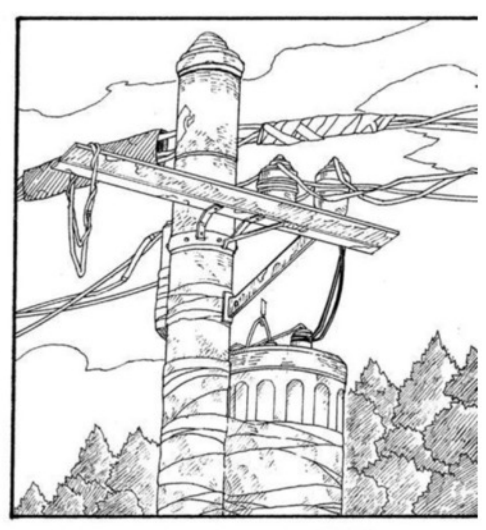



WE'RE CLOSE ...!




...IT'S NO GOOD...
NOW THE SCENT IS RECEDING...






READ THIS WAY


NARUTO... HINATA...
...YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, RIGHT?

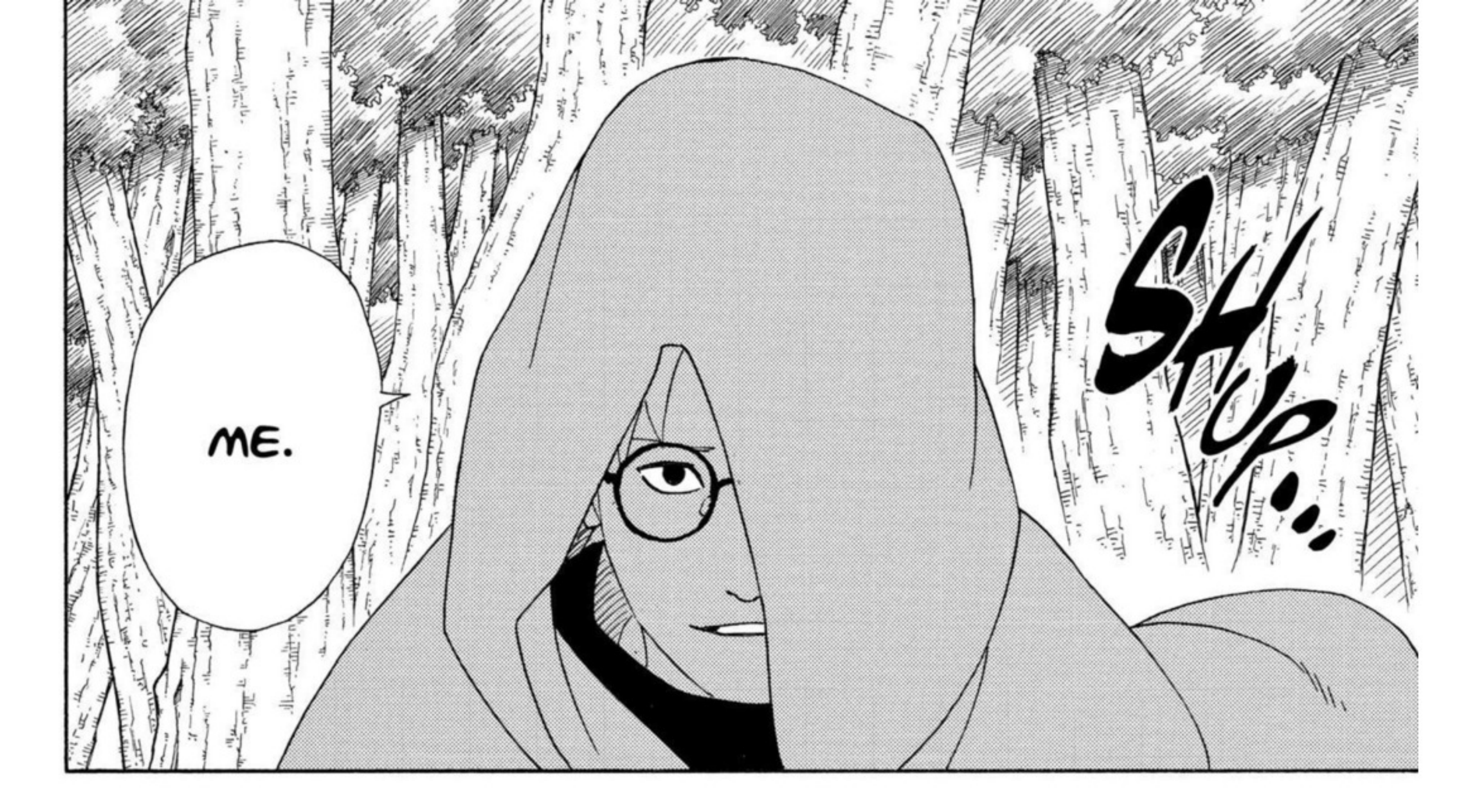

YUP...
YES.

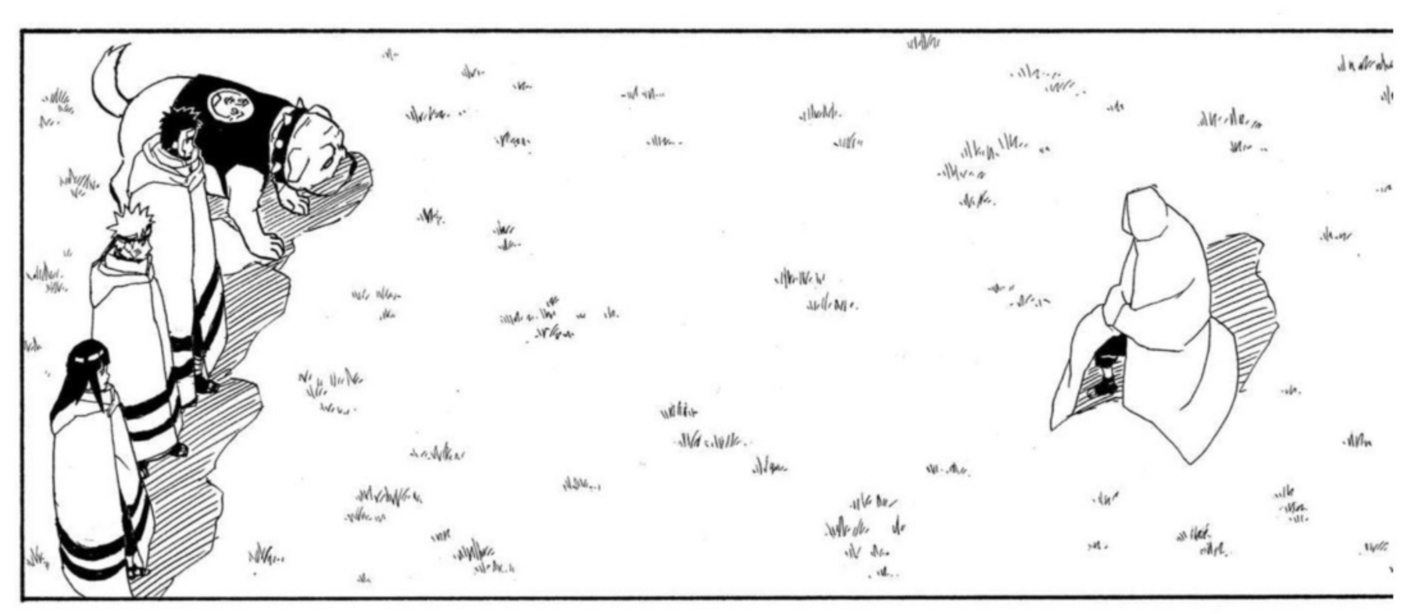

FFP

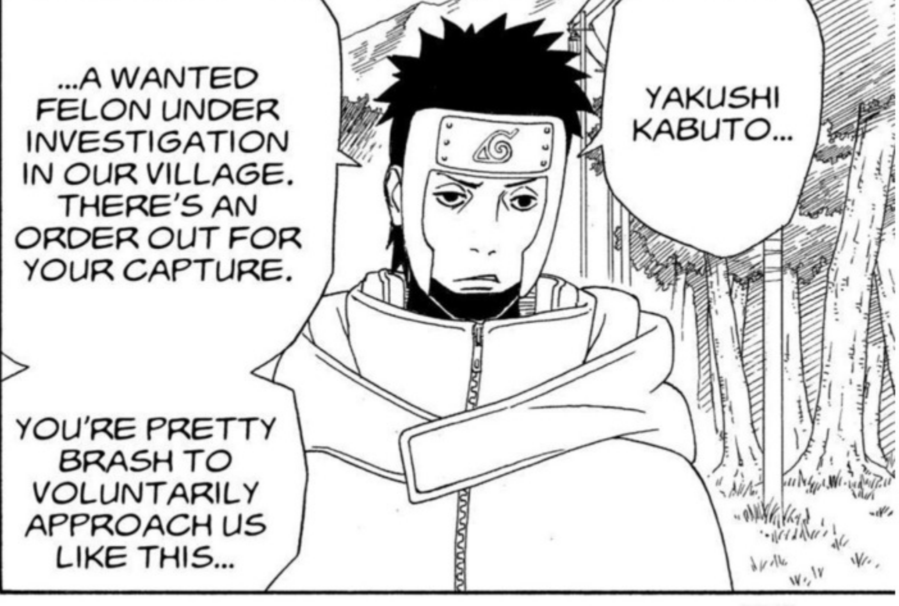

THOK
THOK
THOK

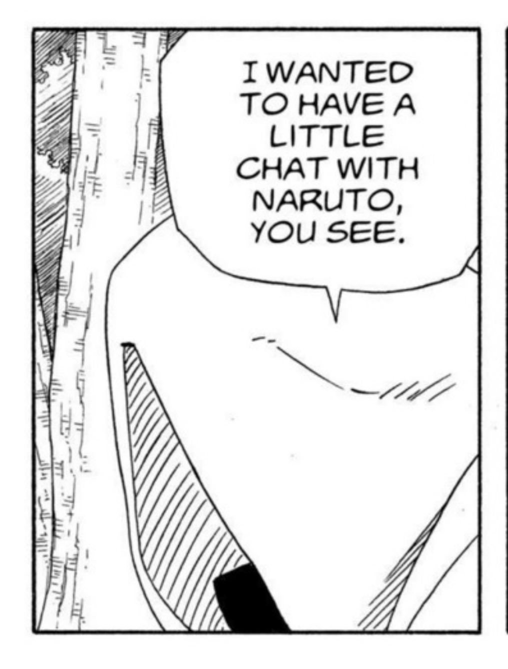

WHSSH


!
YOU...!


SHUP...
ME.




YAKUSHI KABUTO...
...A WANTED FELON UNDER INVESTIGATION IN OUR VILLAGE. THERE'S AN ORDER OUT FOR YOUR CAPTURE.
YOU'RE PRETTY BRASH TO VOLUNTARILY APPROACH US LIKE THIS...

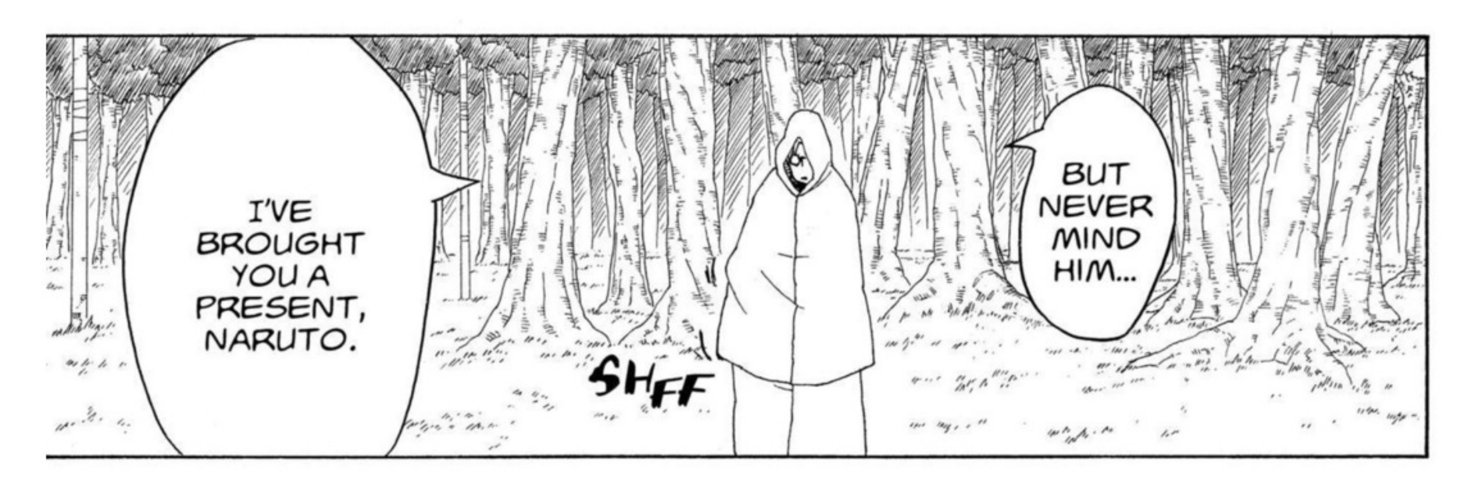

I WANTED TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT WITH NARUTO, YOU SEE.


READ THIS WAY


...


IS IT TRUE SASUKE TOOK DOWN OROCHI-MARU?!


HEH, YOU'RE STILL ALL ABOUT SASUKE, HUH...
YEAH... IT'S TRUE.


BUT NEVER MIND HIM...
SHFF
I'VE BROUGHT YOU A PRESENT, NARUTO.




THOSE ROBES...

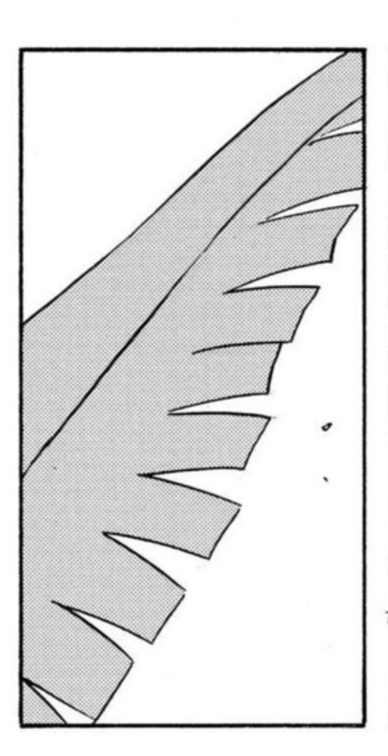
SO YOU'RE SASUKE, EH...

HUH... YOU **DO** LOOK LIKE ITACHI!

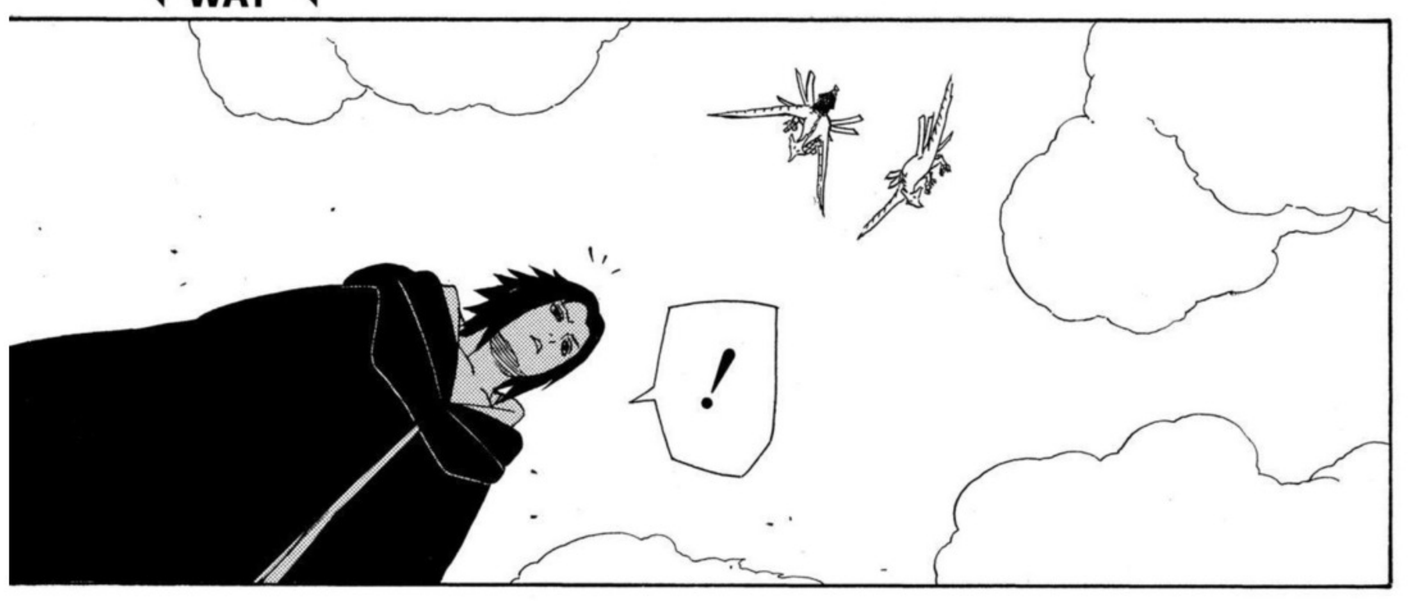
SHUP





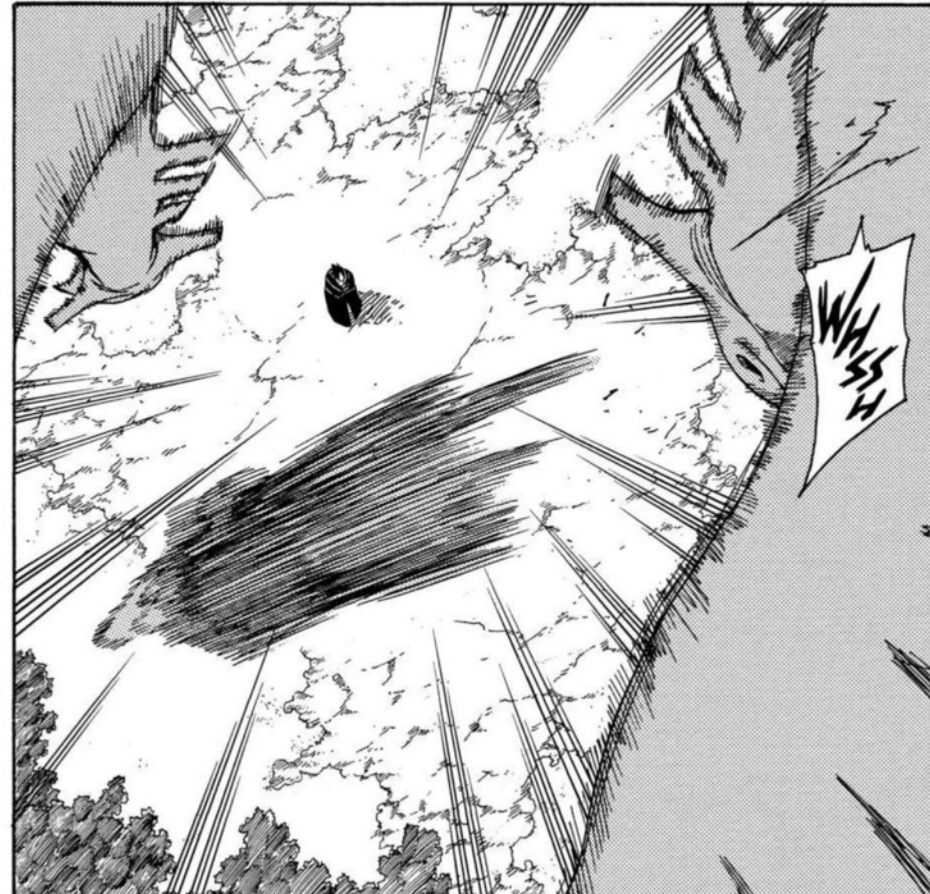



READ
THIS
WAY


!

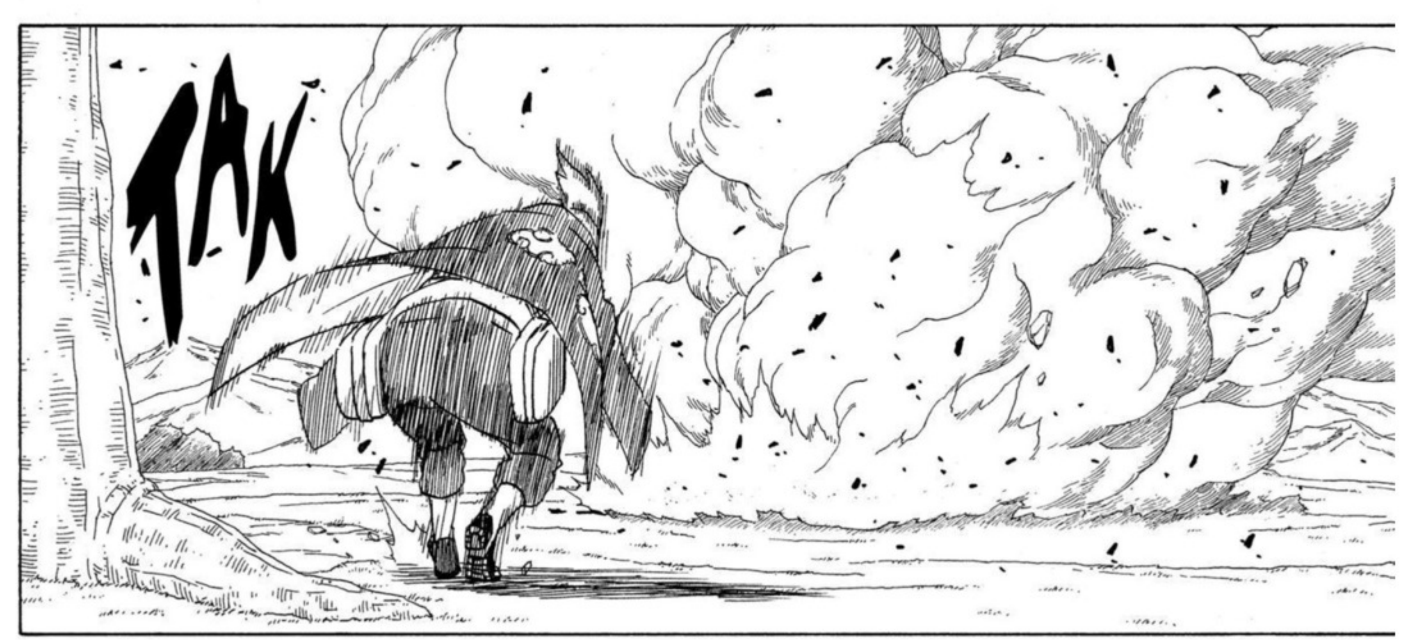



!

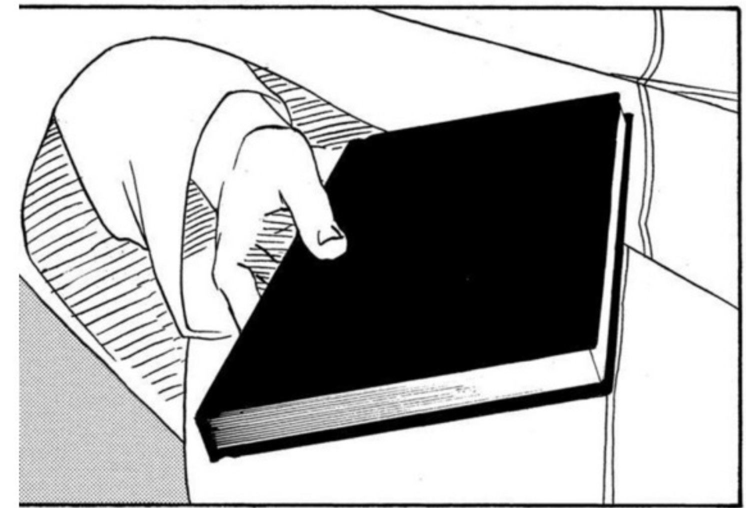

WHSSH


YEEAAAGH!!

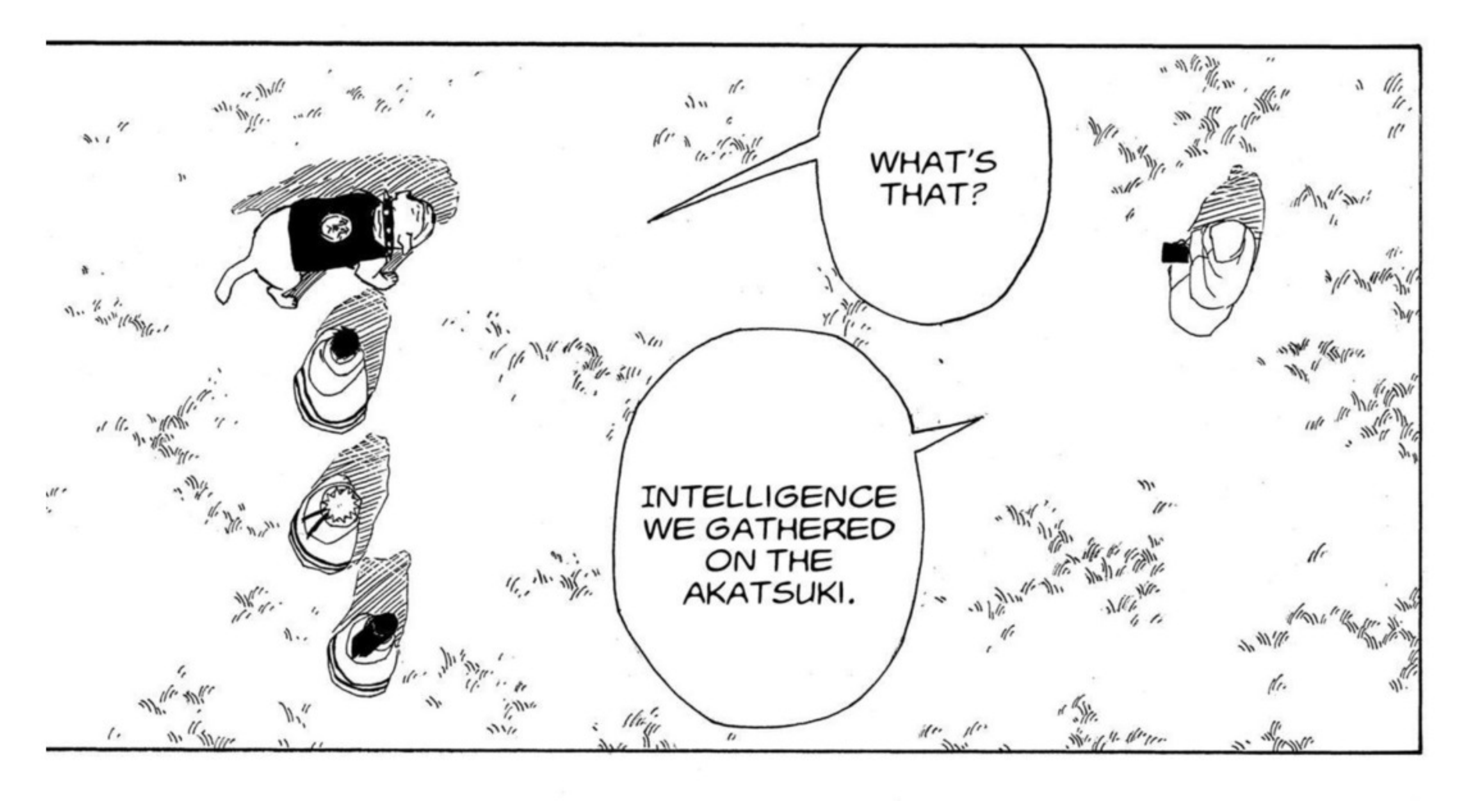
BOOM



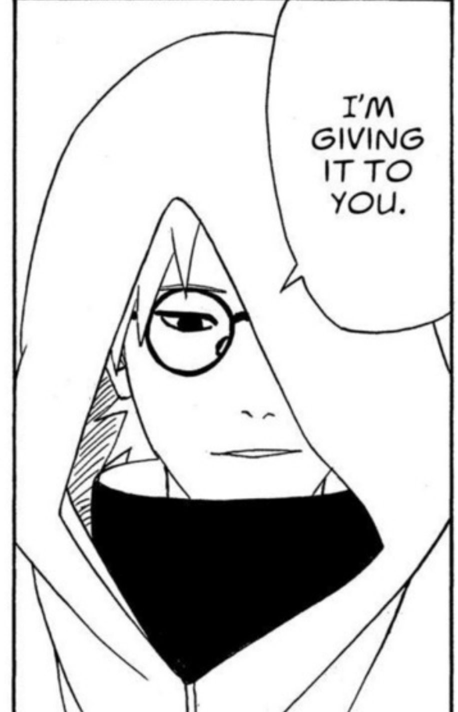

READ THIS WAY

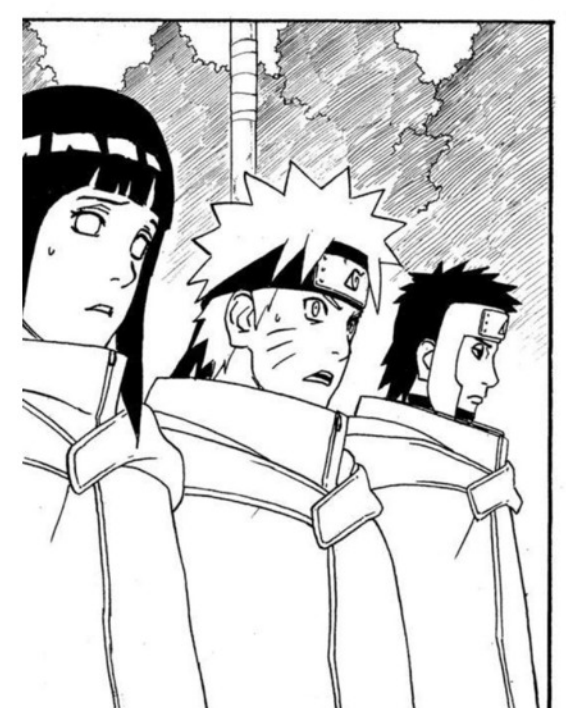



HEH!

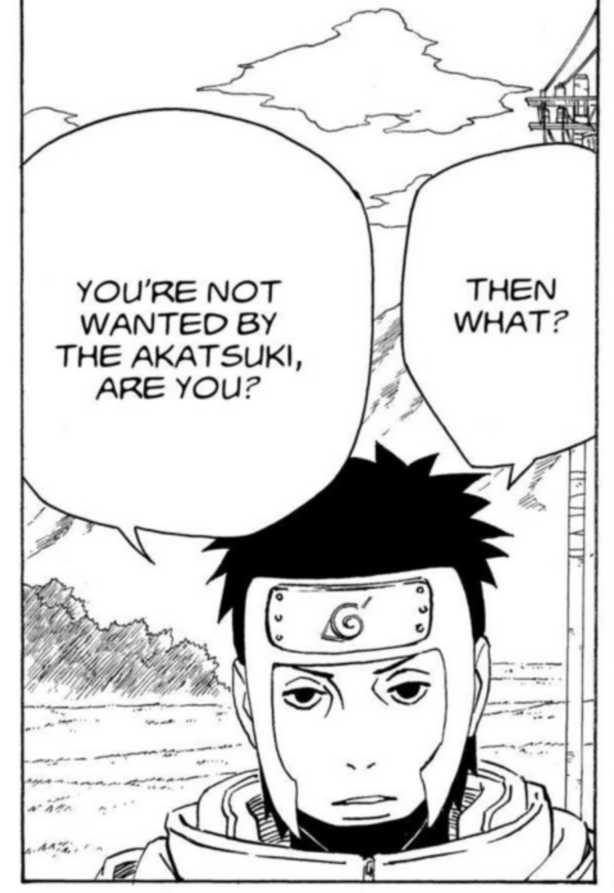

WHAT'S THAT?
INTELLIGENCE WE GATHERED ON THE AKATSUKI.

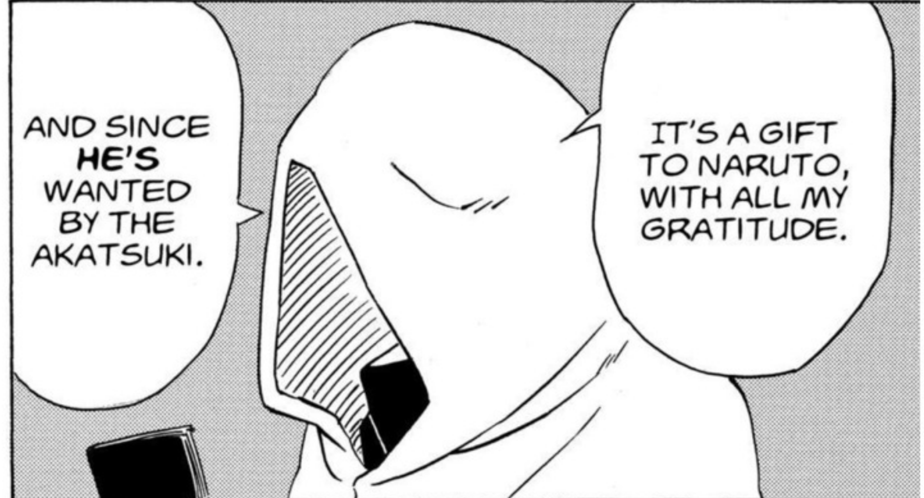

WHY SHOW IT TO US?


I'M GIVING IT TO YOU.

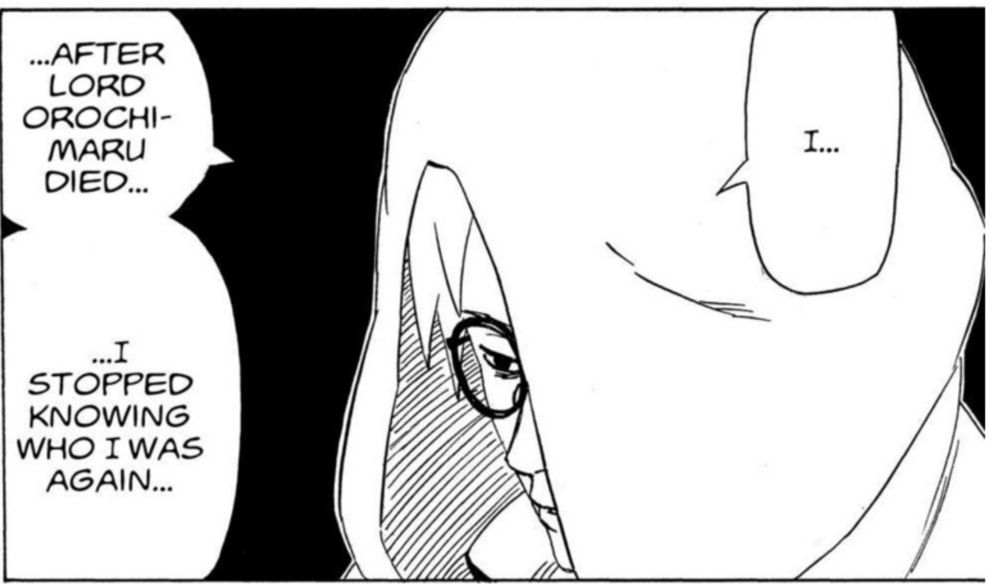



SO YOU'RE GOING TO BARGAIN WITH KONOHA?
NO... I'M SURE KONOHA'S NOT THAT NAÏVE...
...NOR AM I.


THEN WHAT?
YOU'RE NOT WANTED BY THE AKATSUKI, ARE YOU?


IT'S A GIFT TO NARUTO, WITH ALL MY GRATITUDE.
AND SINCE **HE'S** WANTED BY THE AKATSUKI.

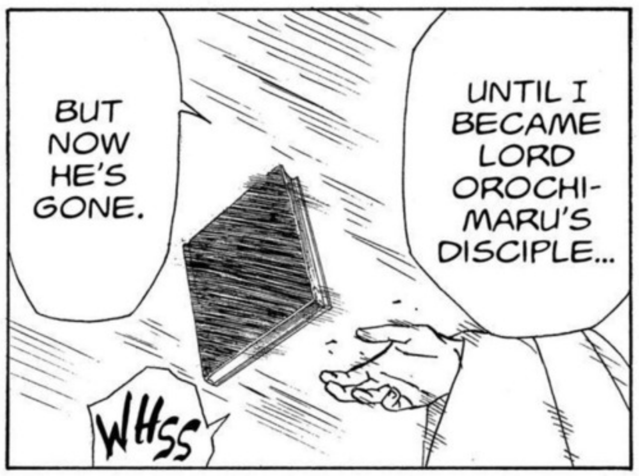

GRATI-TUDE...?

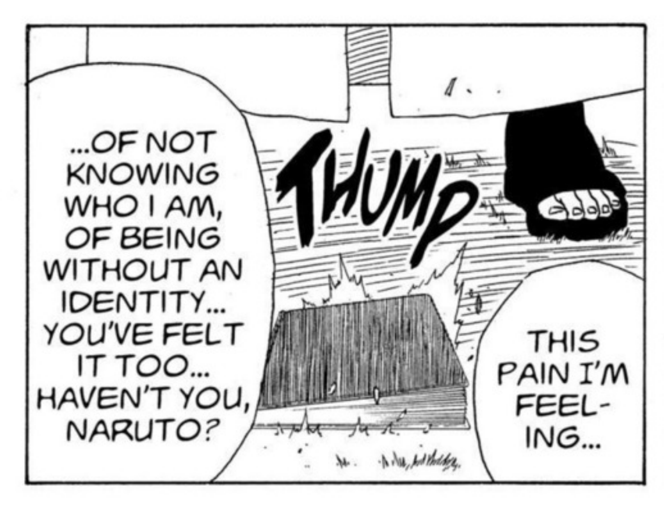

I...
...AFTER LORD OROCHI-MARU DIED...
...I STOPPED KNOWING WHO I WAS AGAIN...


...


READ THIS WAY

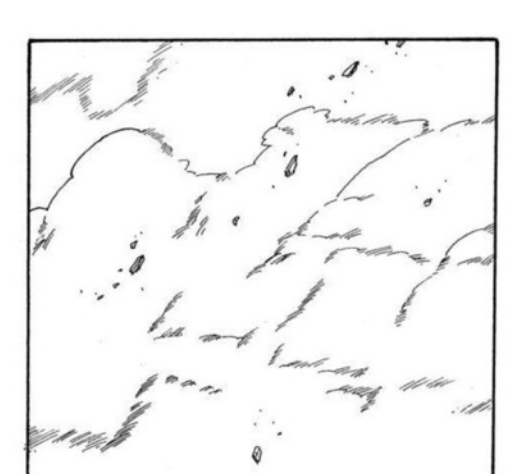

PICKED UP AND RAISED BY THE ENEMY WITH NO MEMORY OF MY PARENTS OR BIRTHPLACE...
...I WAS USED AS A SPY SINCE I WAS A CHILD, MOVING AROUND FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, VILLAGE TO VILLAGE...
FOR A LONG TIME, THE IDEA OF HOME WAS ALIEN TO ME.


UNTIL I BECAME LORD OROCHI-MARU'S DISCIPLE...
BUT NOW HE'S GONE.
WHSS

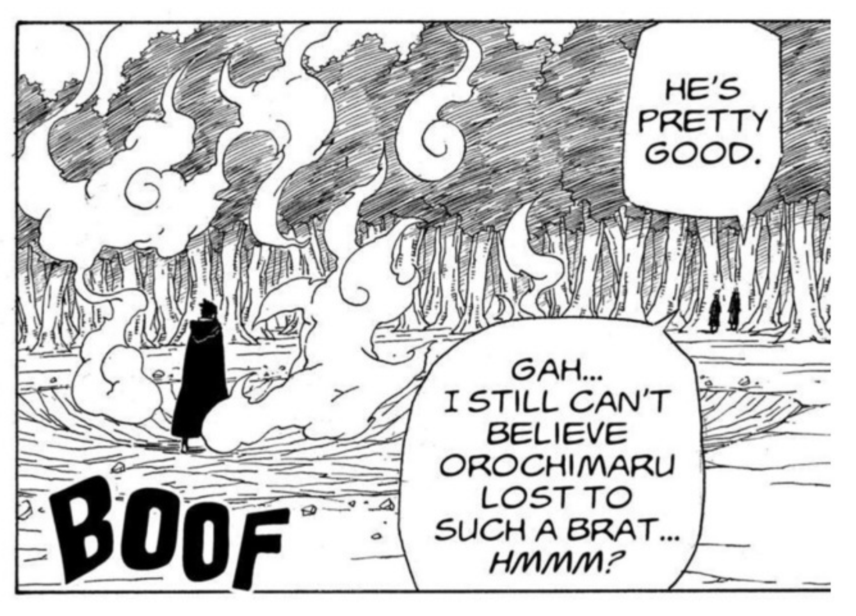

THIS PAIN I'M FEEL-ING...
THUMP
...OF NOT KNOWING WHO I AM, OF BEING WITHOUT AN IDENTITY... YOU'VE FELT IT TOO... HAVEN'T YOU, NARUTO?


ARE YOU UZUMAKI NARUTO... OR THE NINE-TAILED FOX SPIRIT...?
I KNOW YOU STRUGGLED WITH THAT IN THE PAST, WHEN EVERYONE WAS GIVING YOU COLD STARES.


...

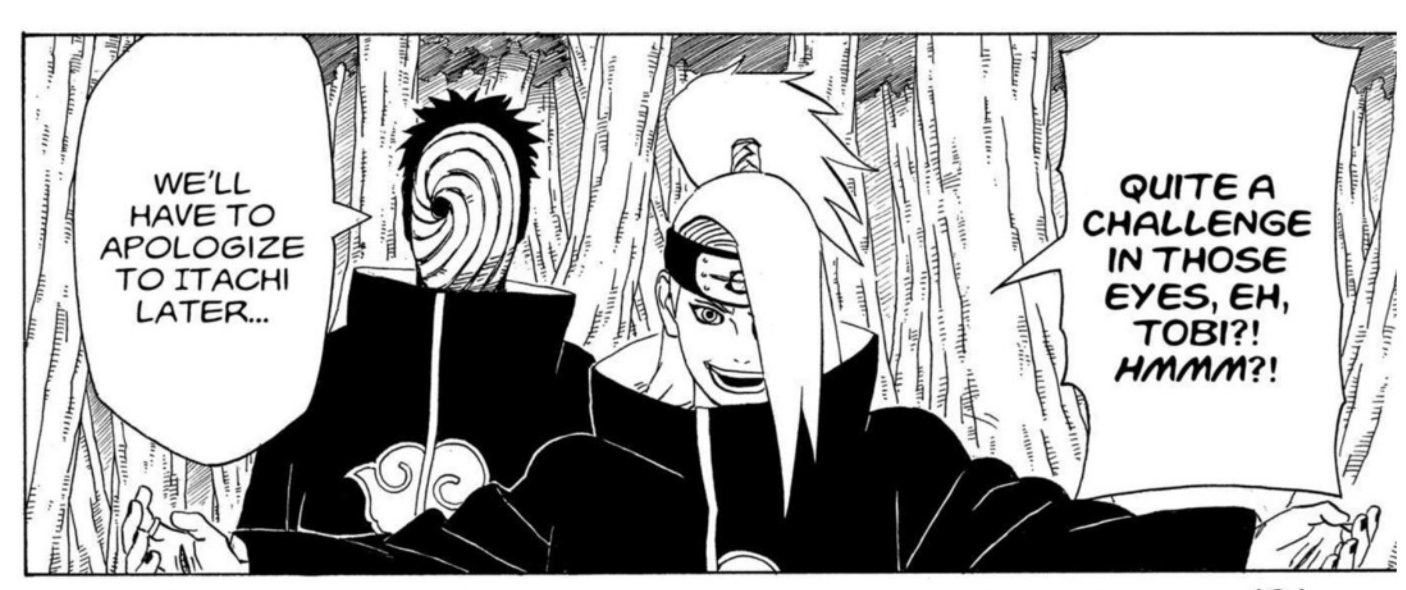


FIZZ



HE'S PRETTY GOOD.
BOOF
GAH... I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE OROCHIMARU LOST TO SUCH A BRAT... *HMMM?*

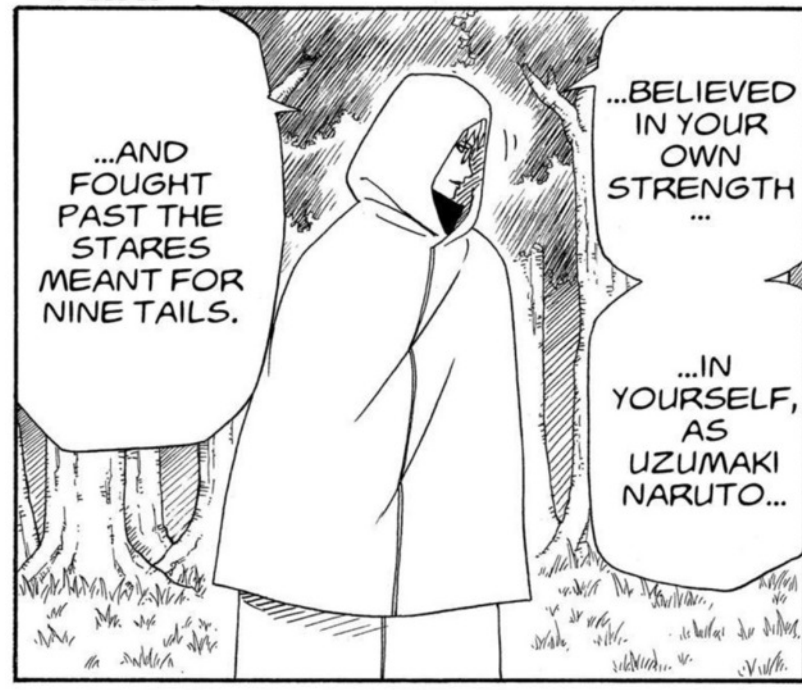




QUITE A CHALLENGE IN THOSE EYES, EH, TOBI?! *HMMM?!*
WE'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO ITACHI LATER...


READ THIS WAY


BUT YOU...


...BELIEVED IN YOUR OWN STRENGTH ...
...IN YOURSELF, AS UZUMAKI NARUTO...
...AND FOUGHT PAST THE STARES MEANT FOR NINE TAILS.

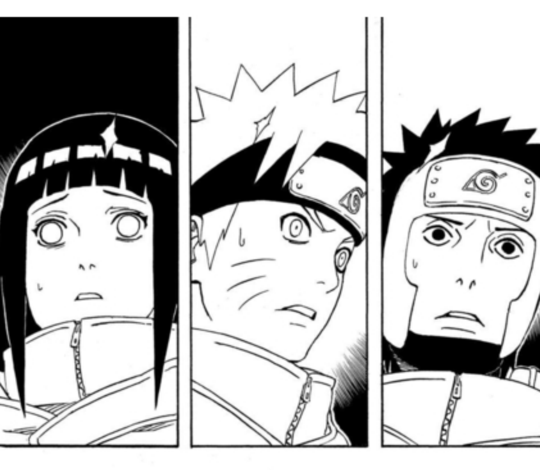

THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GAINED CONFIDENCE IN WHO YOU ARE...
...AND EARNED THE RESPECT OF YOUR COMRADES.


BUT NOT ME... INSTEAD OF TRYING TO REACH BEYOND LORD OROCHIMARU ...
...I STUBBORNLY KEPT CLINGING TO HIS POWER.
SST...


AT LONG LAST, I UNDERSTAND WHERE YOU'VE BEEN AND HOW YOU FELT...
...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO MADE ME AWARE OF ALL THIS.

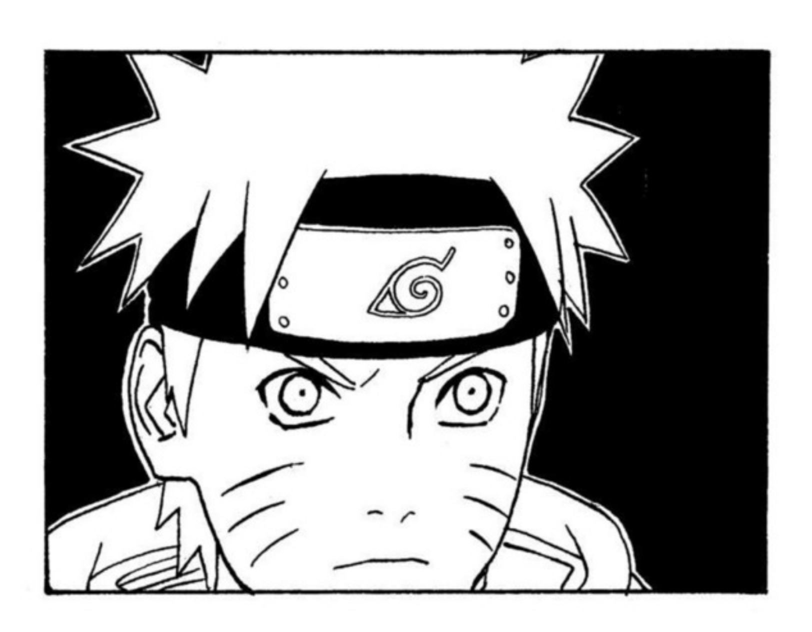

SO I'VE DECIDED TO TRY AND BE LIKE YOU.
THAT'S WHY...

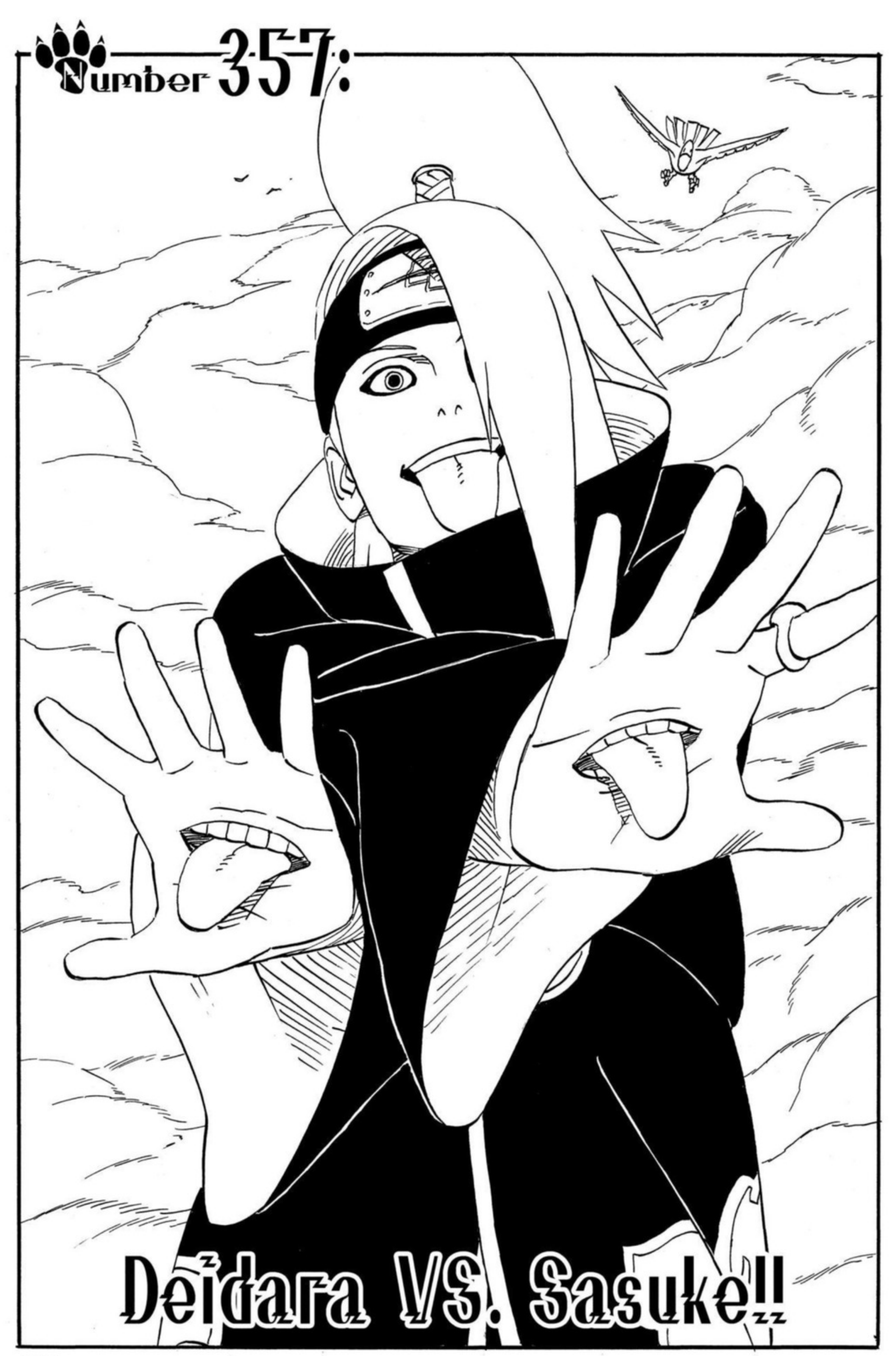

...I'M GOING TO USE WHAT I'VE ABSORBED OF OROCHIMARU...
...TO BECOME A BETTER, STRONGER YAKUSHI KABUTO!




LORD OROCHIMARU IS A SYMBOL OF RENEWAL.
HE WILL LIVE ON INSIDE ME AS A REMINDER...
...OF WHAT I MUST OVERCOME.

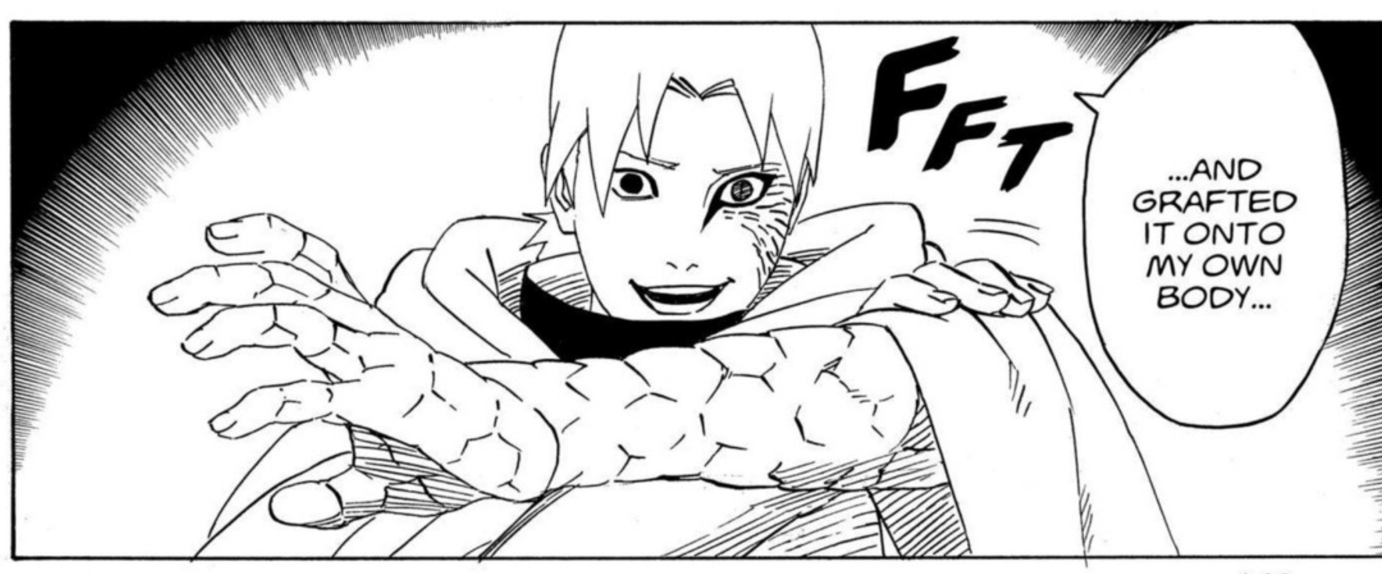

THAT'S WHY I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, NARUTO.
I'VE FOUND A NEW ME... ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!




Number 357:
Deidara VS. Sasuke!!


SEE...
I SIMPLY REMOVED A PORTION OF LORD OROCHI-MARU'S CORPSE AFTER SASUKE DEFEATED HIM...
SST


ABSORBED ...?


FFT
...AND GRAFTED IT ONTO MY OWN BODY...

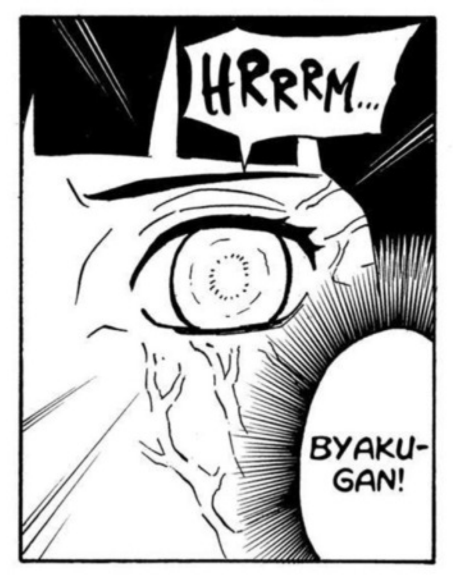

READ
THIS
WAY

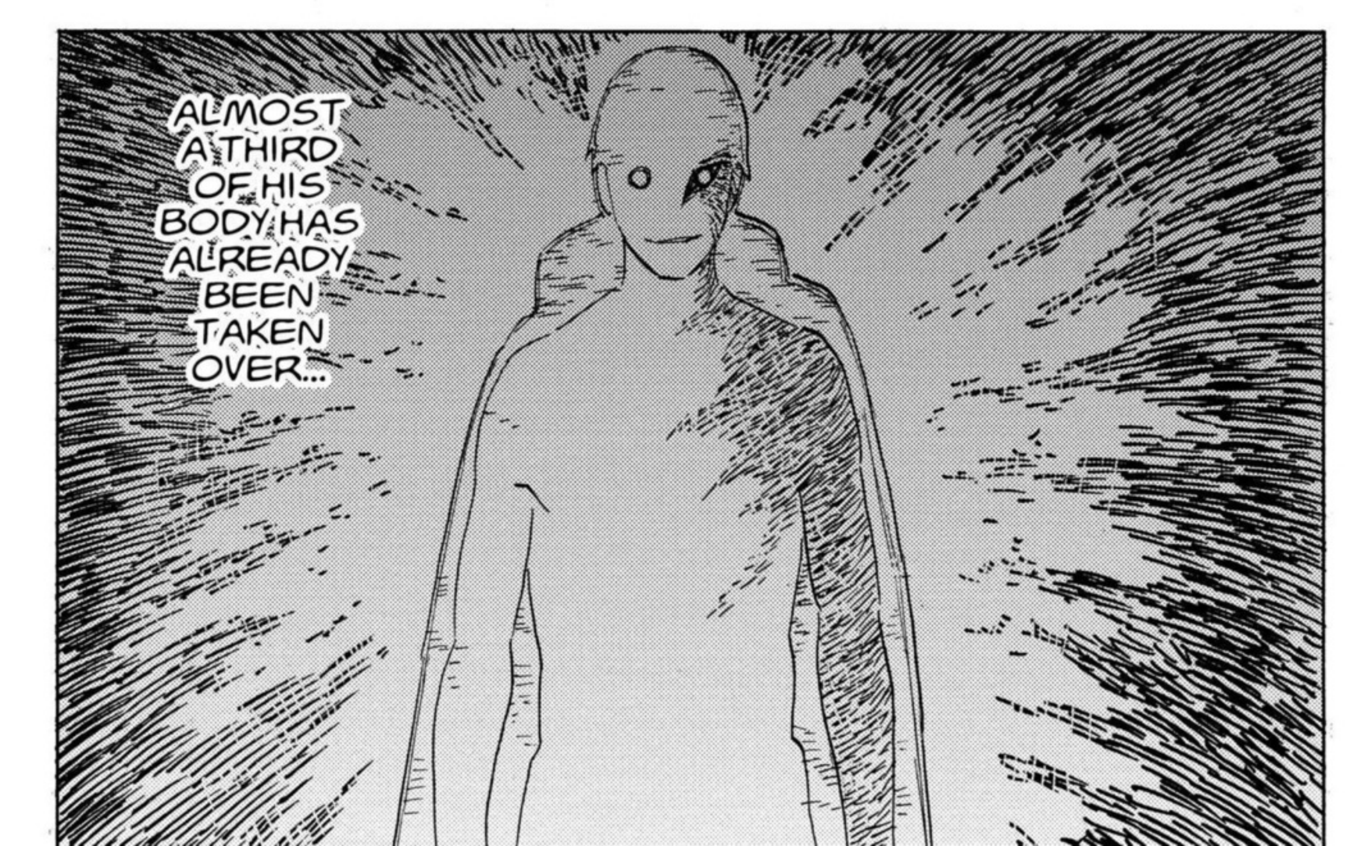

!

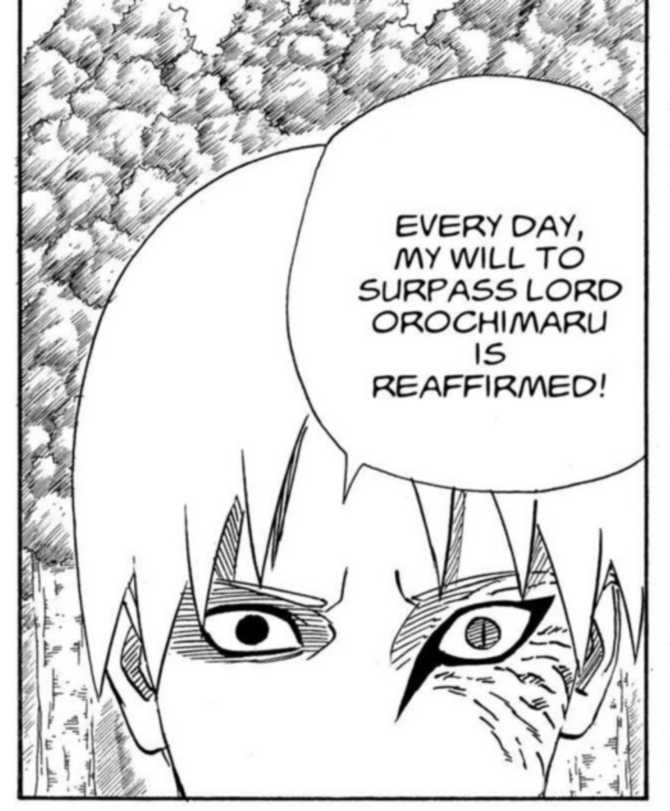

OH, THE LIFE FORCE IT'S GIVEN ME!
I CAN FEEL IT CONSUMING MY ENTIRE BODY...

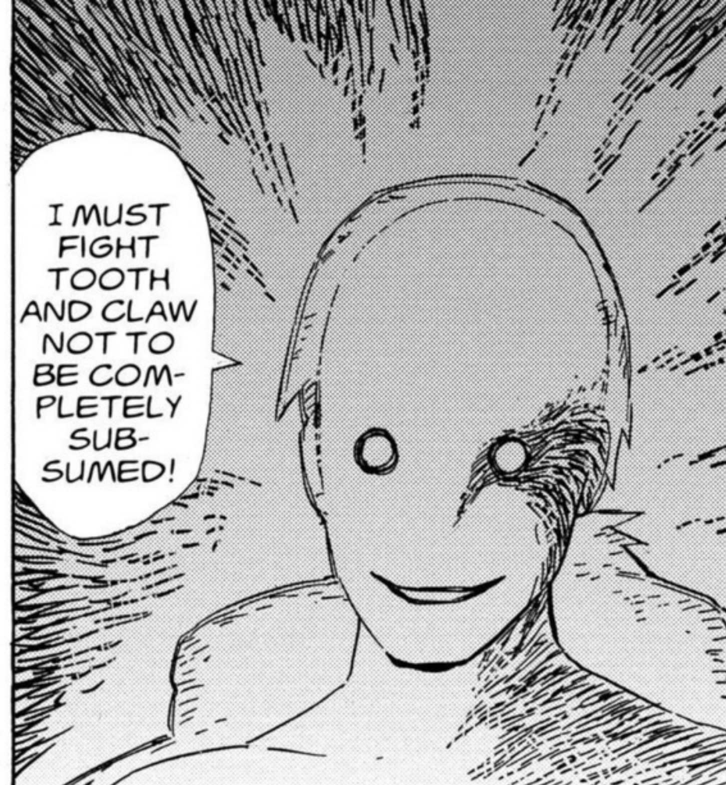

UNBELIEV-ABLE...


...
HUH? WHAT...


HRRRM...
BYAKU-GAN!

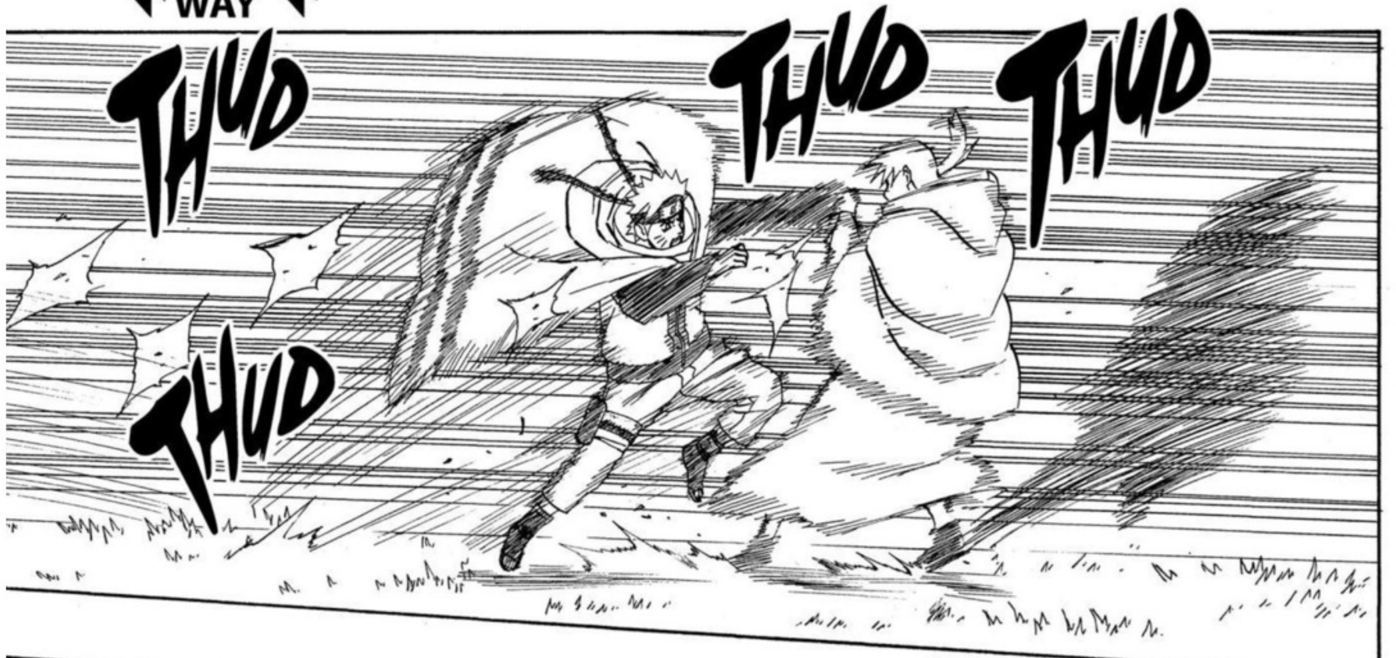

ALMOST A THIRD OF HIS BODY HAS ALREADY BEEN TAKEN OVER...


EVERY DAY, MY WILL TO SURPASS LORD OROCHIMARU IS REAFFIRMED!


I MUST FIGHT TOOTH AND CLAW NOT TO BE COMPLETELY SUBSUMED!

!
HEH.
!
...
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!
!
FROM INSIDE A KONOHA CAGE!!
WHOOSH

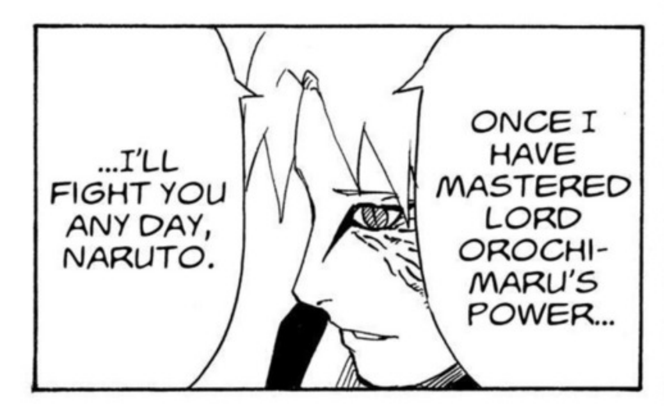

READ THIS WAY


THUD
THUD
THUD
THUD

!
TAK
FFFWAP
HA!
GOTCHA!!
NARUTO! BEHIND YOU!
!
SHOOSH
!

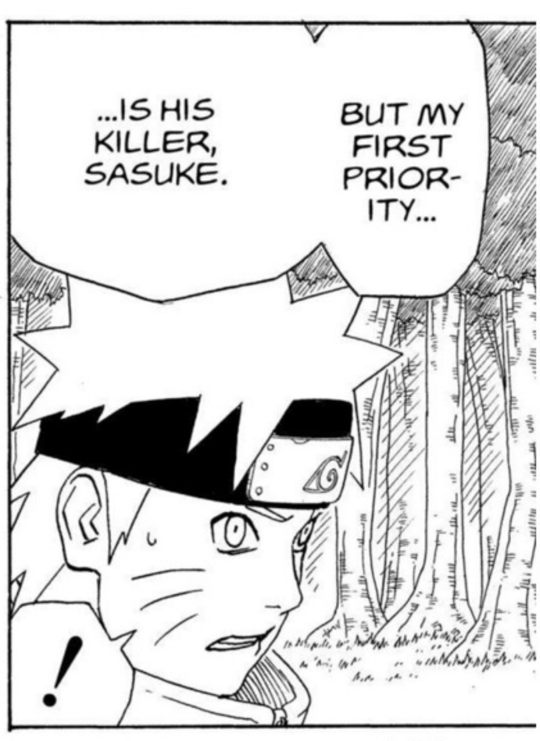

FAP
GAH...


HYA-
HA
HA
HA
HA!


...I'LL FIGHT YOU ANY DAY, NARUTO.
ONCE I HAVE MASTERED LORD OROCHI-MARU'S POWER...


FFT

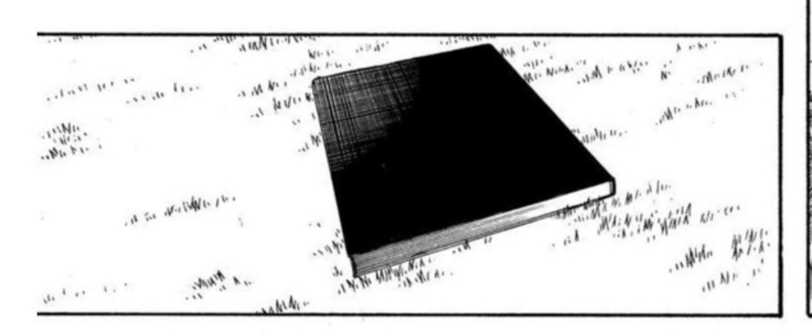

BE SEEING YOU...

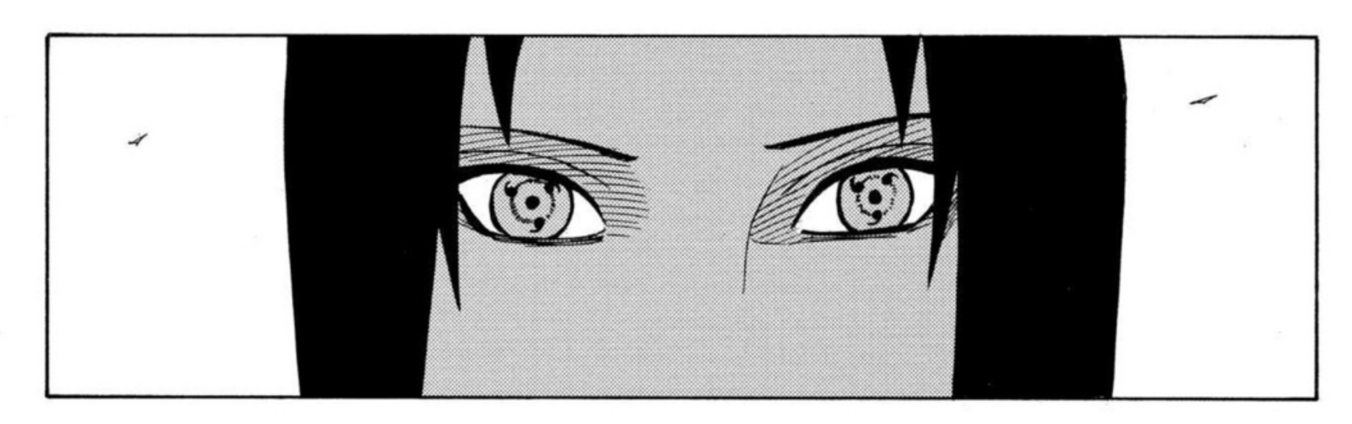

...IS HIS KILLER, SASUKE.
BUT MY FIRST PRIOR-ITY...
!


READ
THIS
WAY

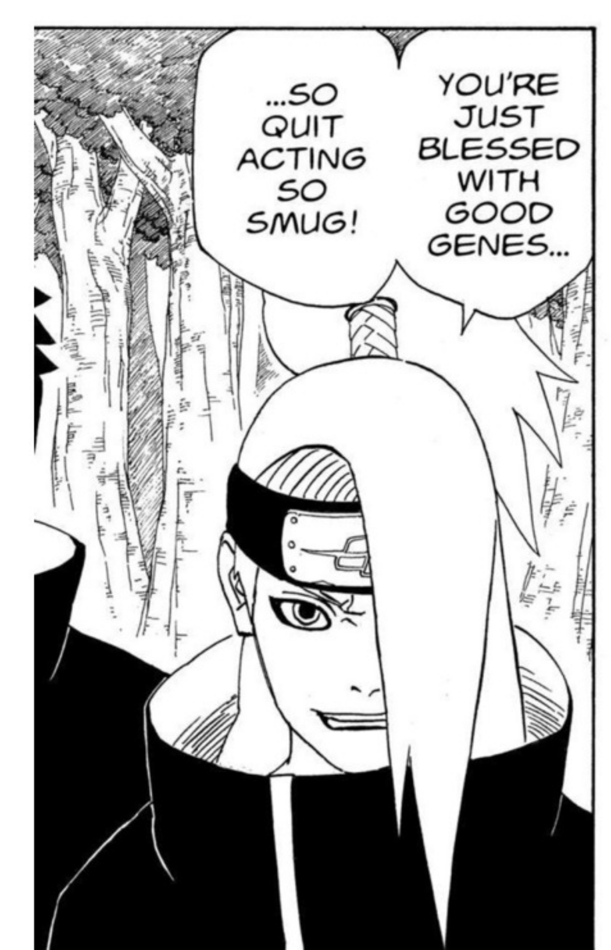








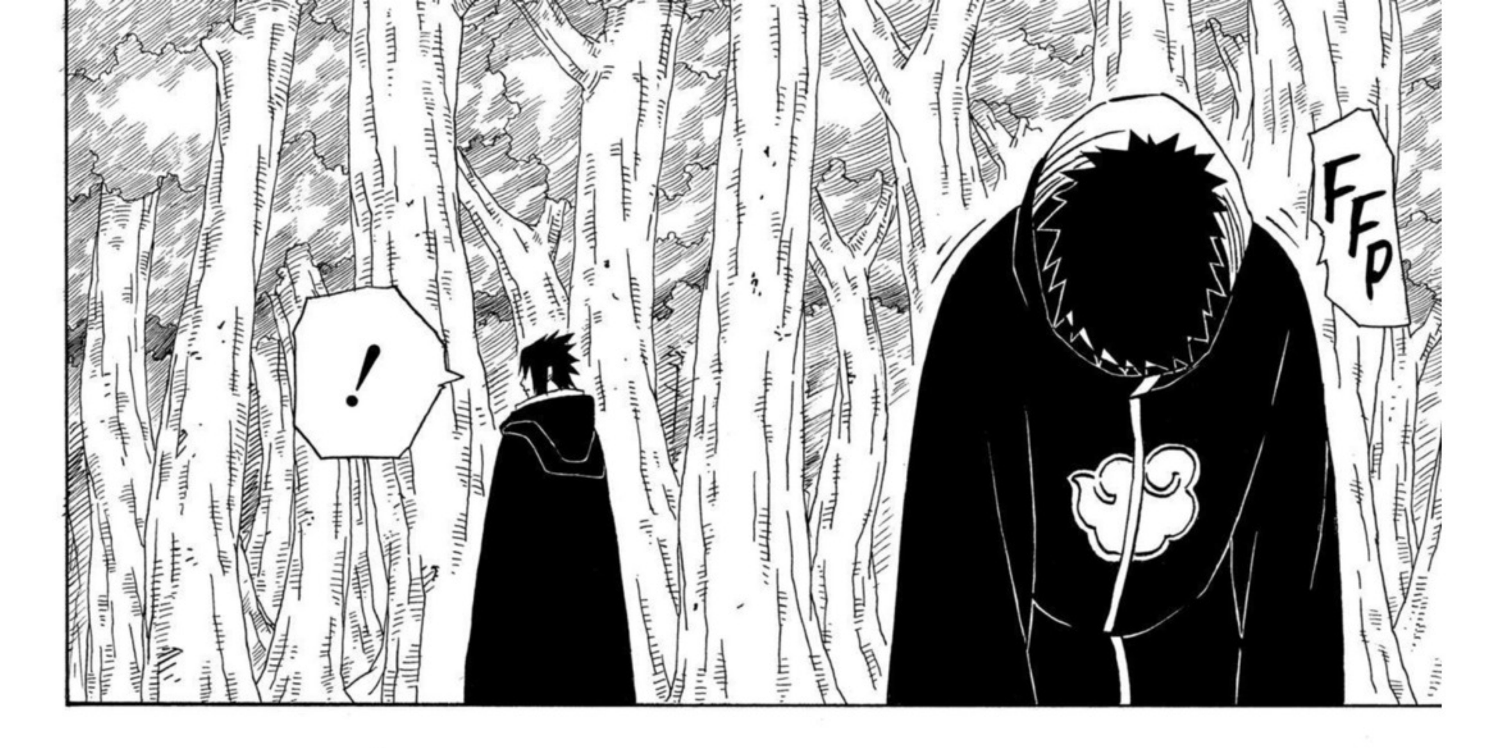

SHARINGAN, EH... HE REALLY IS ITACHI'S LITTLE BROTHER.
YOU WERE ONLY ABLE TO KILL OROCHIMARU THANKS TO UCHIHA BLOOD... HMMM?


YOU'RE JUST BLESSED WITH GOOD GENES...
...SO QUIT ACTING SO SMUG!

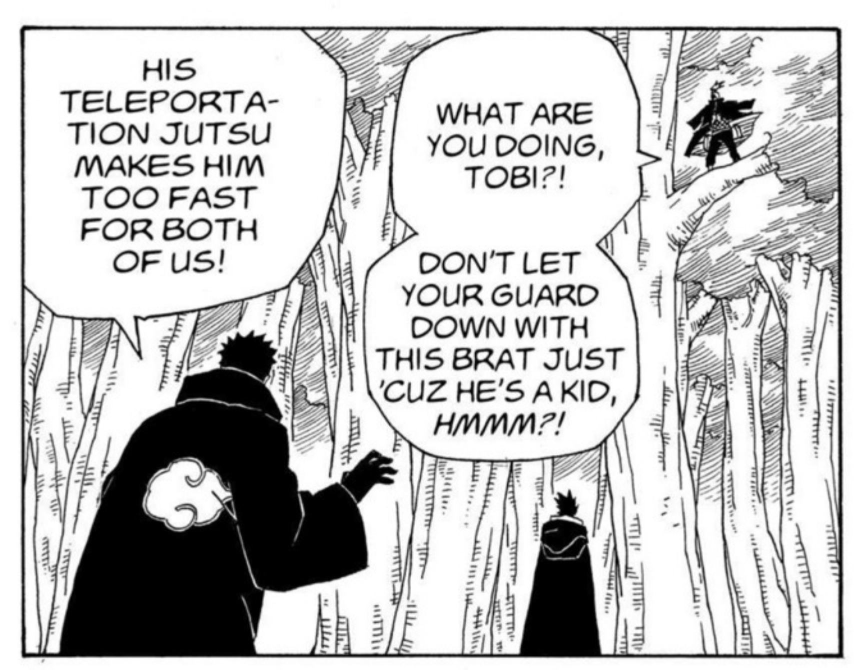


WHH
!!
SSH
HE'S FAST!

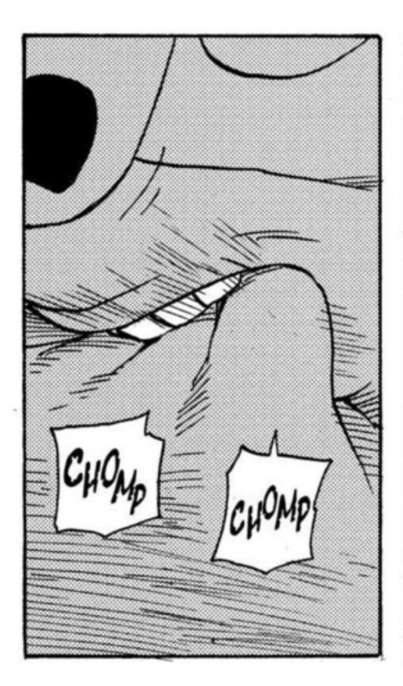

HUH?
WHSSH
SLASH
ONE DOWN...
THUMP
NOW, CHATTER-BOX, YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ALL ABOUT ITACHI...
SST...
TAK
THAP


FFP
!


HE'S...


WHAT ARE YOU DOING, TOBI?!
DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN WITH THIS BRAT JUST 'CUZ HE'S A KID, HMMM?!
HIS TELEPORTATION JUTSU MAKES HIM TOO FAST FOR BOTH OF US!


SHUG
LET ME SIZE HIM UP WITH SOME CHAKRA LEVEL C1 EXPLOSIVES FIRST.
AAAH


CHOMP
CHOMP



!

STAY BACK, TOBI.

PLINK PLINK

WHSS

PTING

PTING

FWP



SWISH

Z-Z-Z-ZIP






READ
THIS
WAY


GAH...


!


DEIDARA
!
BEHIND
YOU!!
LOOK
OUT!!


UGH!
FFFT




YEEAAGH!

BOOM

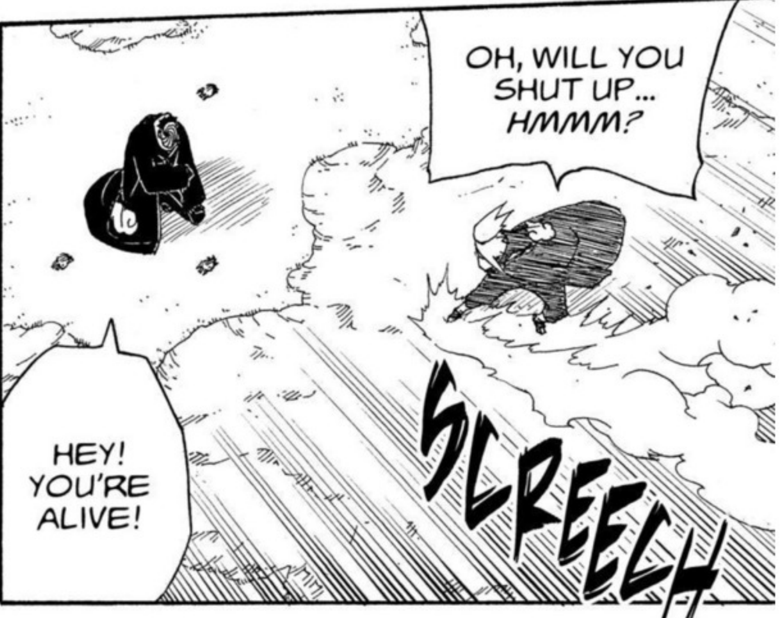
!

DEIDARA!!

SHFF

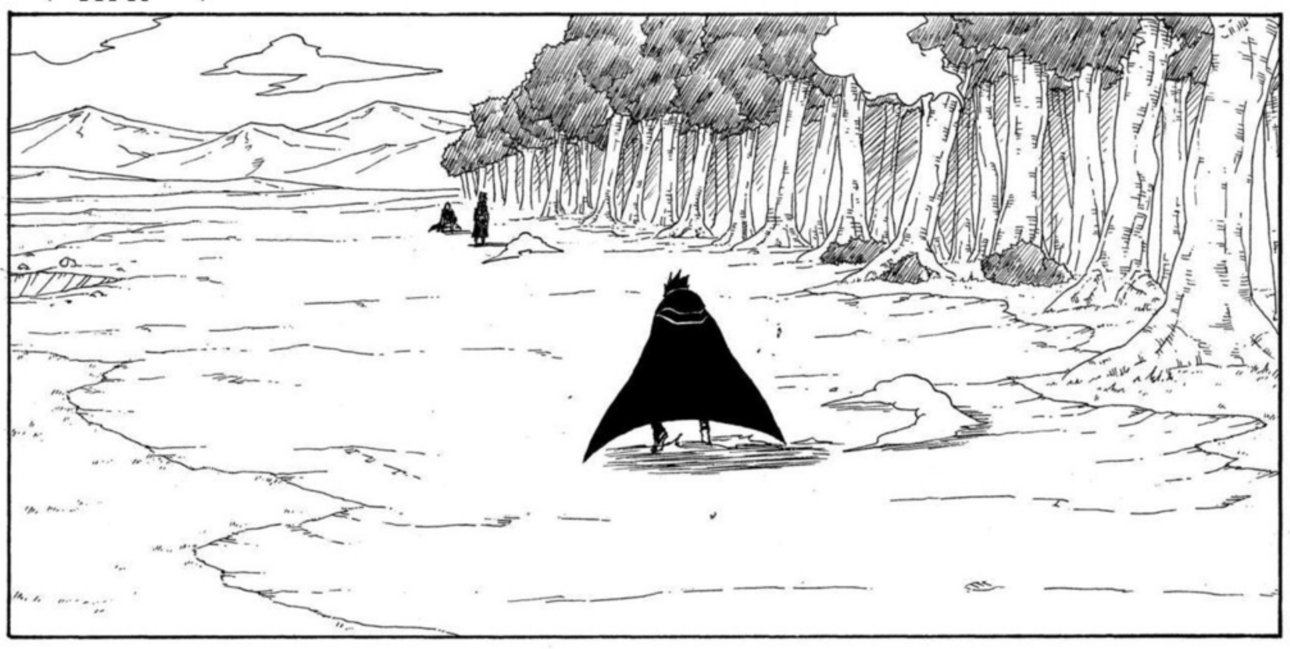
SOB... SOB... HE MAY HAVE BEEN STRICT, BUT HE WAS A GOOD PARTNER...

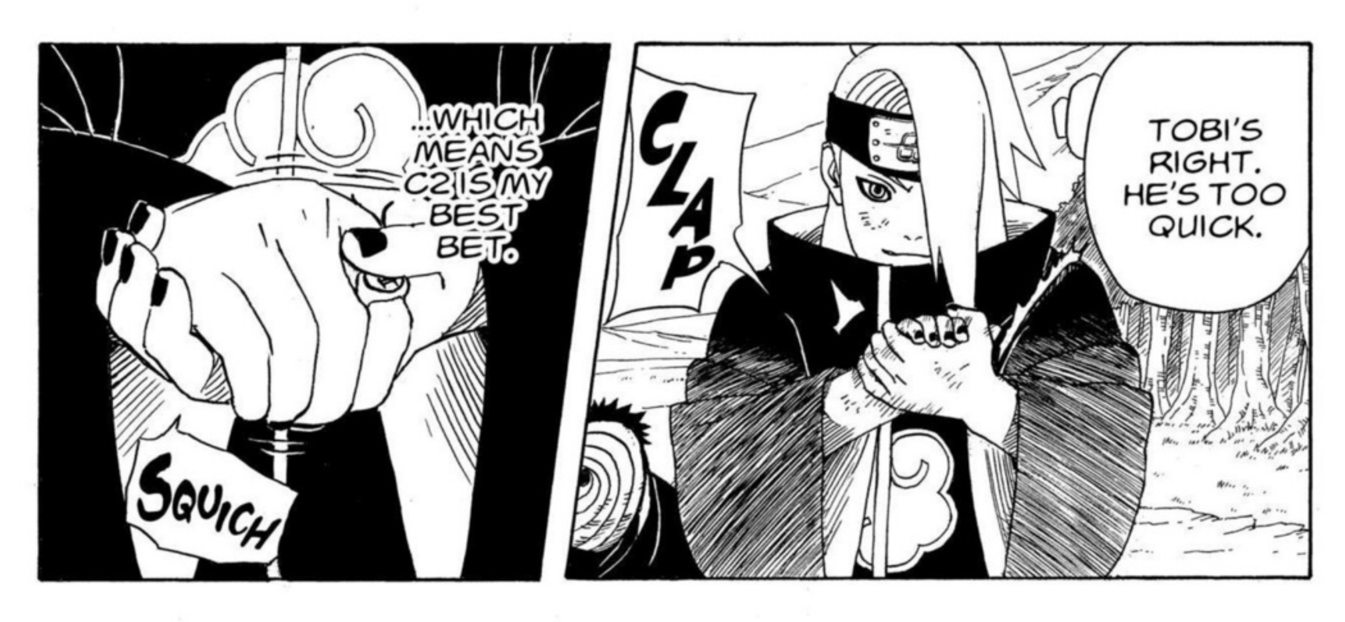
...I WILL NEVER FORGET HIM...

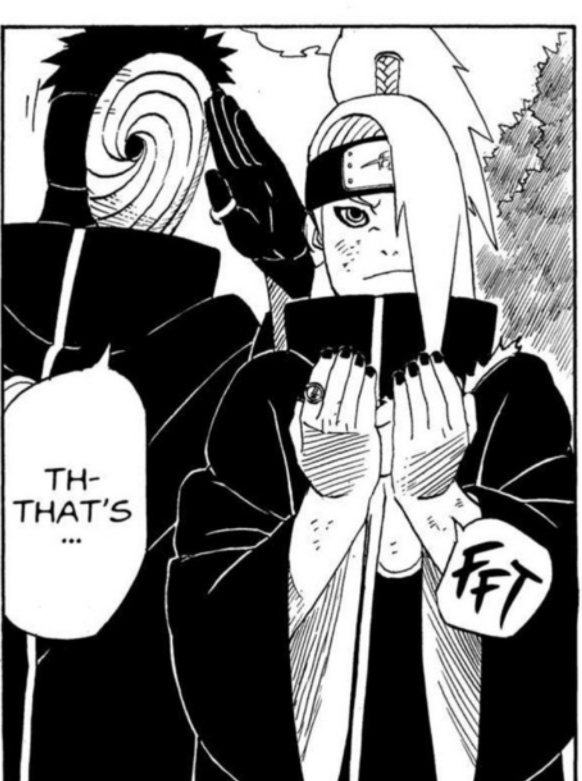





READ
THIS
WAY




TOBI'S RIGHT. HE'S TOO QUICK.
CLAP
...WHICH MEANS C2 IS MY BEST BET.
SQUICH


TH- THAT'S ...
FFT


!


BOOOF


TA-DAA!
PRESENTING ONE OF MY PARTNER'S SIGNATURE PIECES, THE C2 DRAGON!
HE CREATES EXPLOSIVES...!

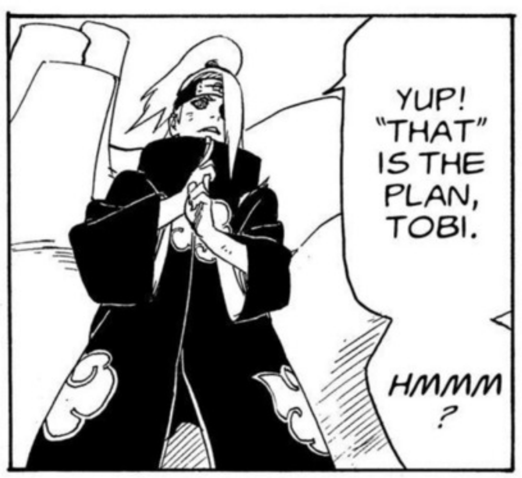

TOBI, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, RIGHT?!!
THAP


YESSIREE, PARTNER!
AS DISCUSSED...!

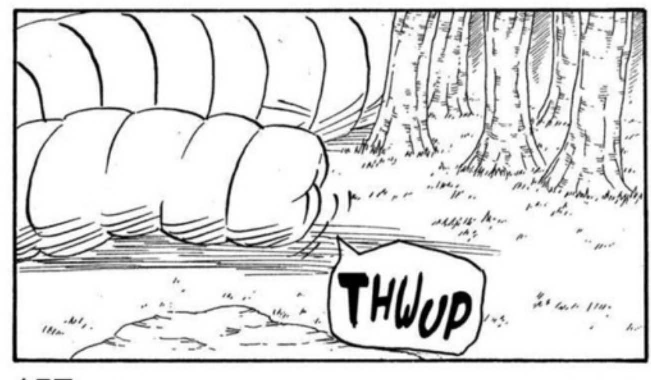

TAK

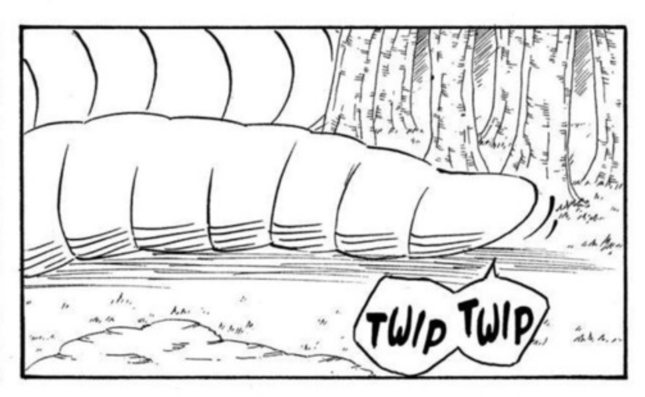
Number 358: Chasing C2!!













SPROING
PLINK-PLANK-PLINK-PLINK
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, TOBI.
YESSIR!
BRAAAP
CAN THAT GIANT THING BECOME AN EXPLOSIVE AS WELL?
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, IT CAN PROBABLY FLY TOO...
FFT
WHAT A BOTHER.
SSH
WH



HERE HE COMES!

LET'S SHOW HIM THE POWER OF YOUR POP ART, PARTNER!

POP IS DEAD!

MY ART IS SUPER-FLAT, HMMM?!

AAAHH

!

YEEAAGH!

HOOSH

KER
BOOM
SCREECH
THIS ONE WAS DIFFERENT... IT WAS A GUIDED MISSILE.
!
FLAP
!
WHERE'S THE OTHER ONE...?

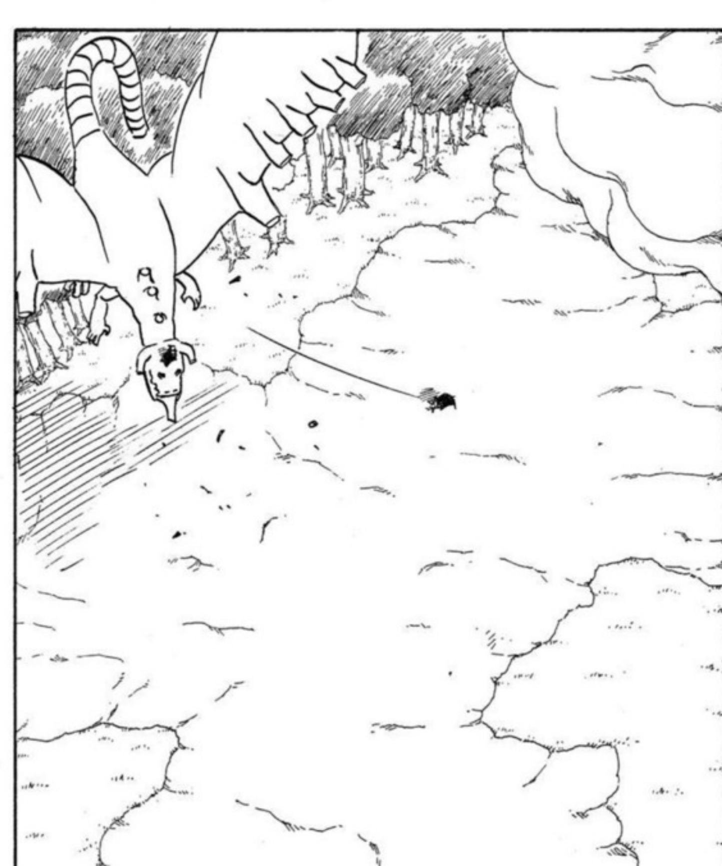
WOOSH

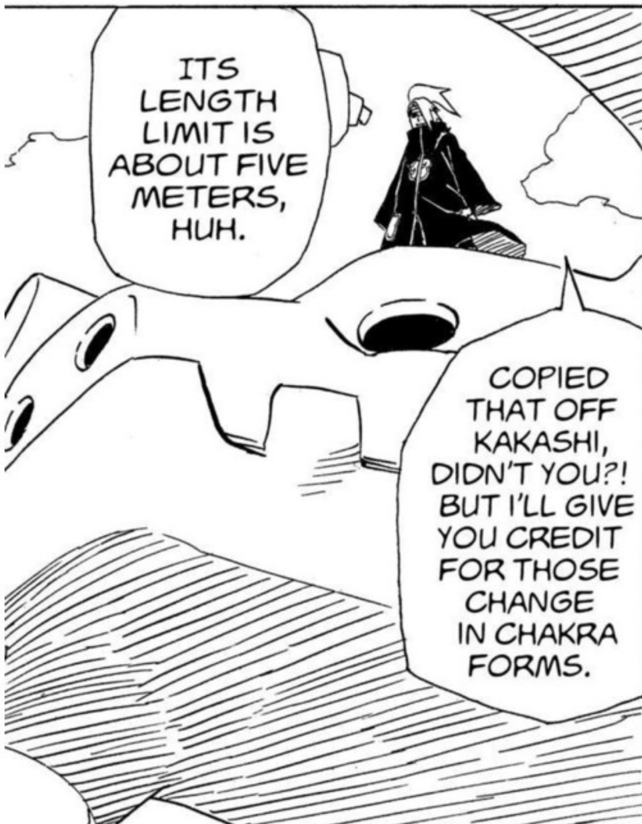
HMNN... FIRST THINGS FIRST, THEN.

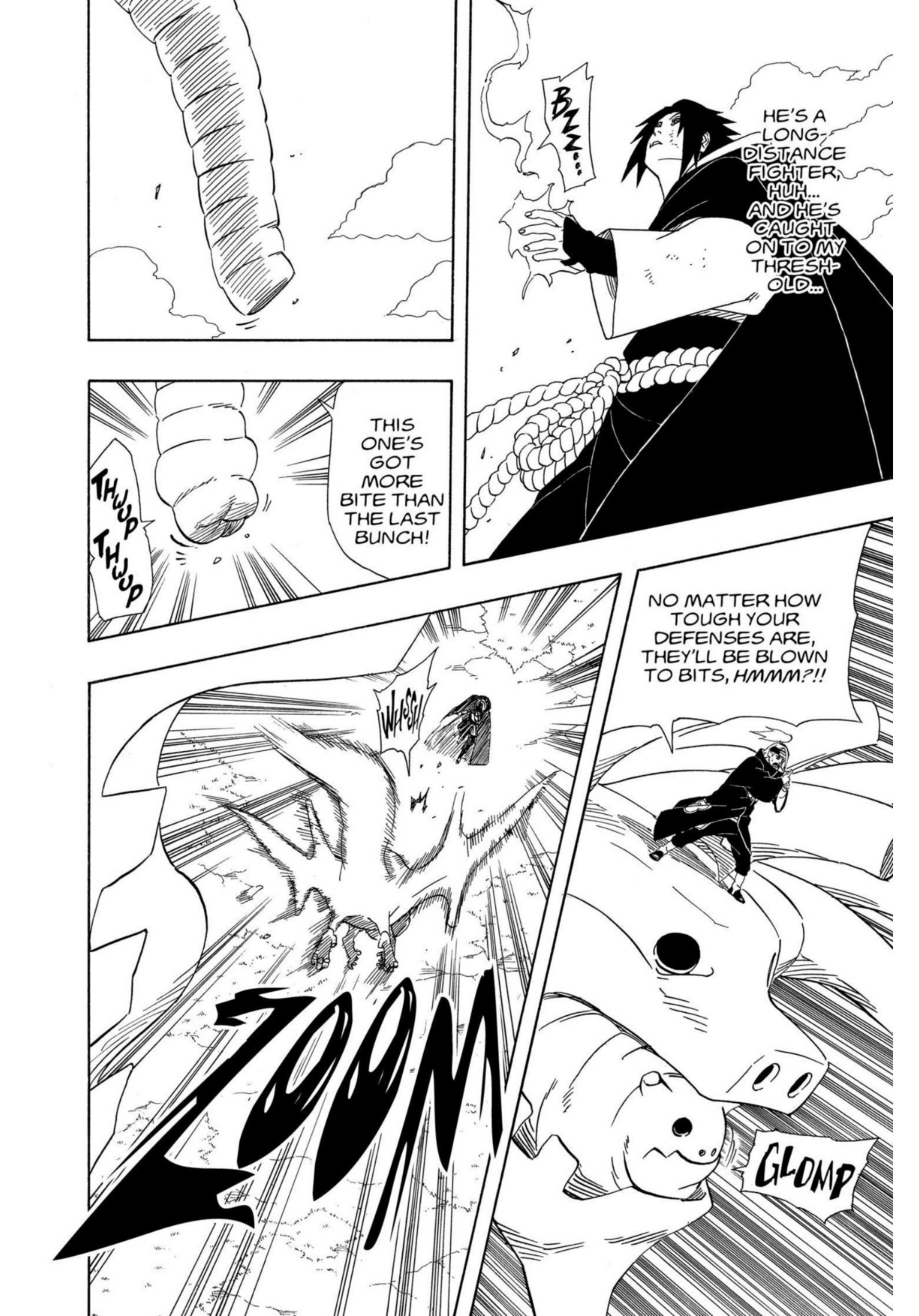
BZZZZZ

SWISH

RRRRK






BZZZ...
HE'S A LONG-DISTANCE FIGHTER, HUH... AND HE'S CAUGHT ON TO MY THRESH-OLD...
THIS ONE'S GOT MORE BITE THAN THE LAST BUNCH!
THWUP THWUP
NO MATTER HOW TOUGH YOUR DEFENSES ARE, THEY'LL BE BLOWN TO BITS, HMMM?!!
WHSH
ZOOM
GLOMP

KERBOOM

!

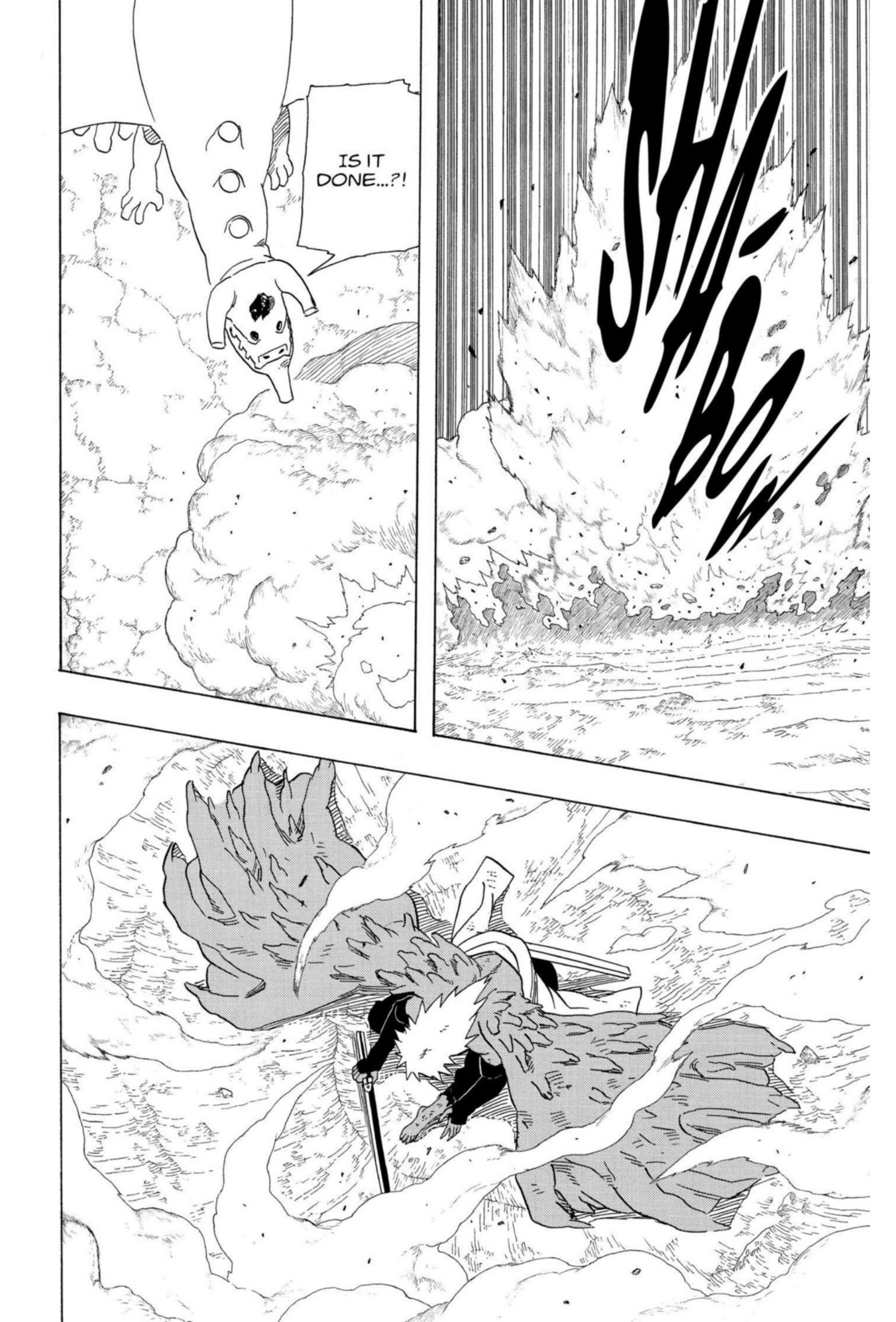
SCREECH

BLOP

HE REALLY IS SWIFT.



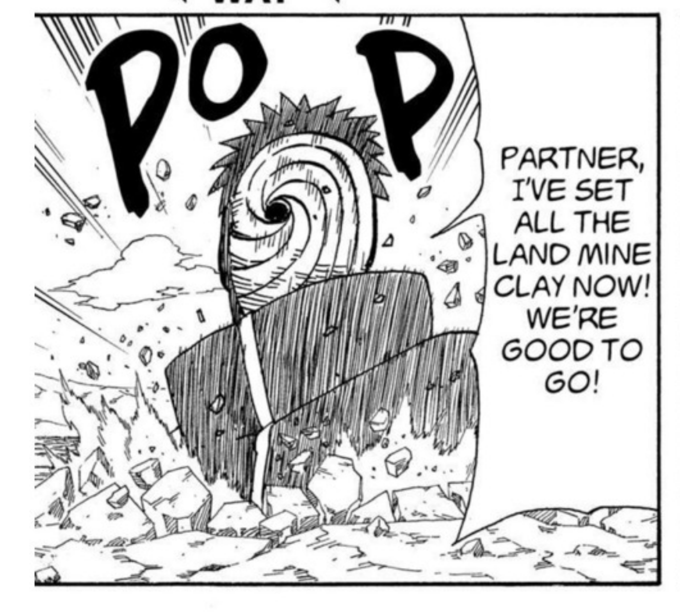


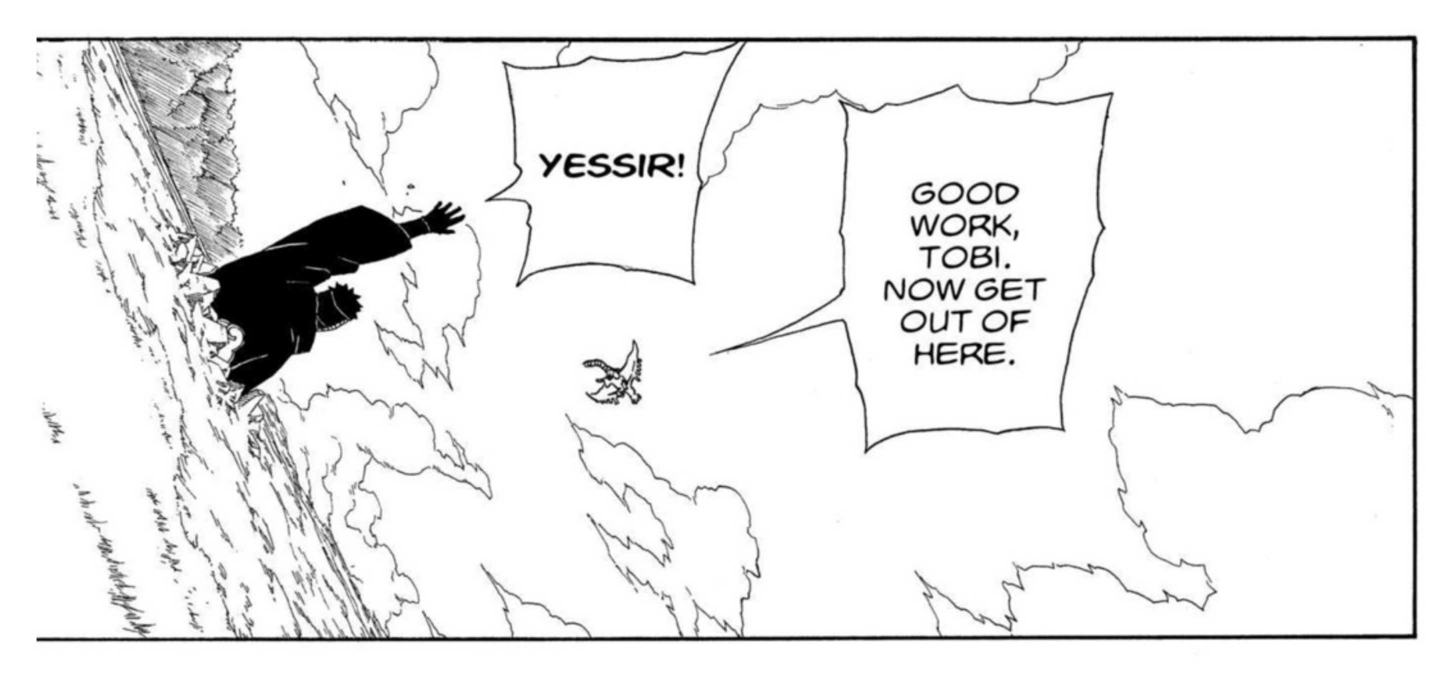

SHA-BOW
IS IT DONE...?!

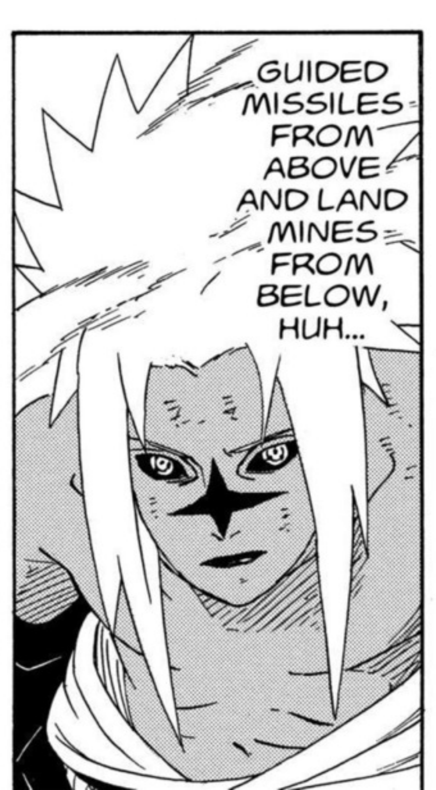
READ THIS WAY



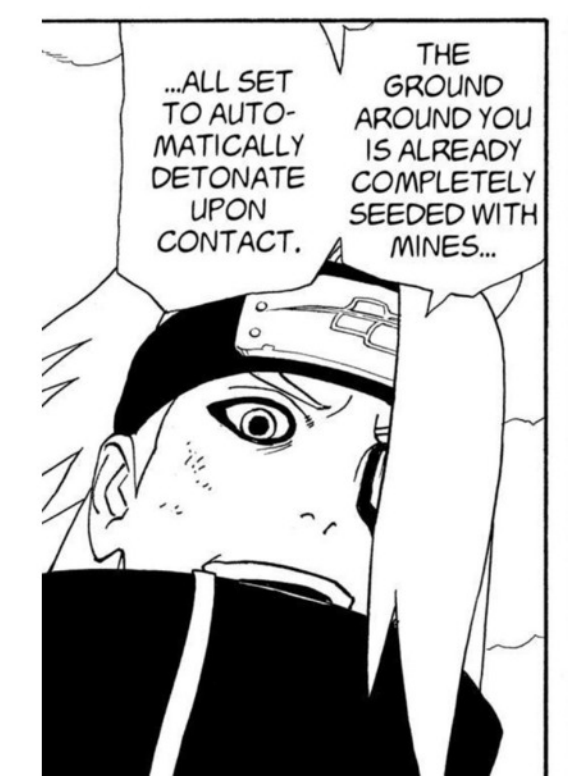












YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL AVOID MY AERIAL ATTACKS WITH THOSE WOUNDED LEGS? *HMMM?*

VWEEN

GLOP...

NOT ONLY HAS HE LIMITED MY MOVEMENT WITH THE MINES BELOW AND THE MISSILES ABOVE...

...BUT HE'S ALSO MAKING SURE TO HOVER JUST BEYOND MY MAXIMUM ATTACK RADIUS...

ZLURP...





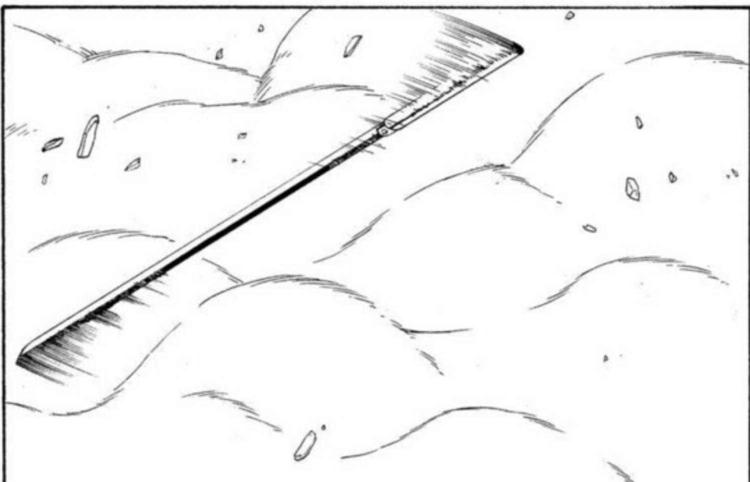


BLOP

I'M NOT LETTING YOU GET AIR-BORNE, FOOL!!

KA BOOM






SHOULDN'T HAVE USED YOUR WINGS AS SHIELDS ...
...NOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO FLY ANYMORE... NOT WITH ONLY ONE LEFT... HEH HEH HEH.
FLOP
TWANG
SHF
BULGE
SWWWW
!
ZLURP
DON'T WORRY, I'LL END IT RIGHT NOW... HMMM?


WHOOSH
HOOSH
GLOOP
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME DOWN WITH THOSE?! DON'T YOU MOCK ME!!
WHSSH
LATERAL MOVE-MENT?!
HEH HEH... THERE'S NO-WHERE SAFE TO GO! LAND MINES OR MISSILES...
...SASUKE IS DOOMED!


BZZZZZ
THAP
HUH?!
A FOOT-HOLD...?!

!

HE... **DELIBERATELY** THRUST HIS BLADE INTO THE GROUND?!

TO CHECK FOR LAND MINES AND TO CREATE A FOOTHOLD FOR HIMSELF?!

SHUNK



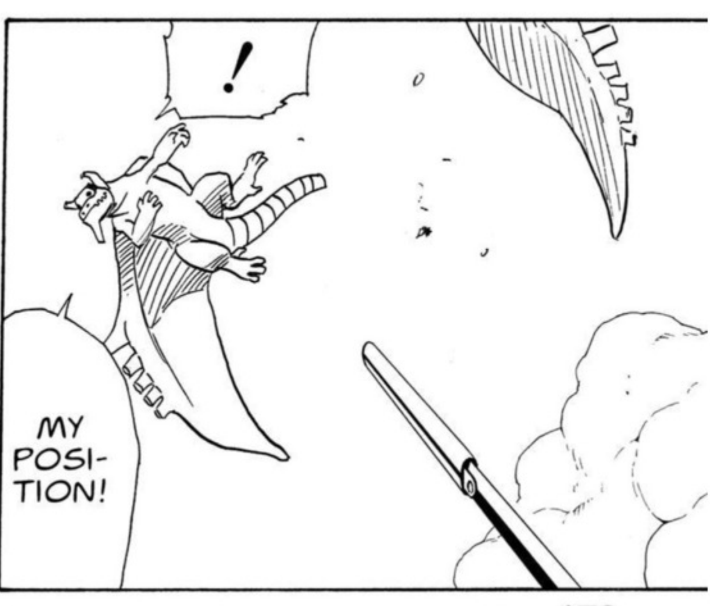


SHHH
AK


HE EXTENDED HIS REACH BY THE LENGTH OF HIS BLADE... AND THE DISTANCE OF HIS ONE-WINGED JUMP...
!
HUP


YOUR BAL-ANCE!!


THAT'S IT! HE LURED ME HERE WITH HIS SHURIKEN ATTACK... TO GET ME INTO RANGE OF HIS CHAKRA BLADE...!
I'M RIGHT ABOVE HIS BLADE NOW?!


!
MY POSI-TION!



THAT BLASTED BRAT!

FWAP

?!!

AARGH!!

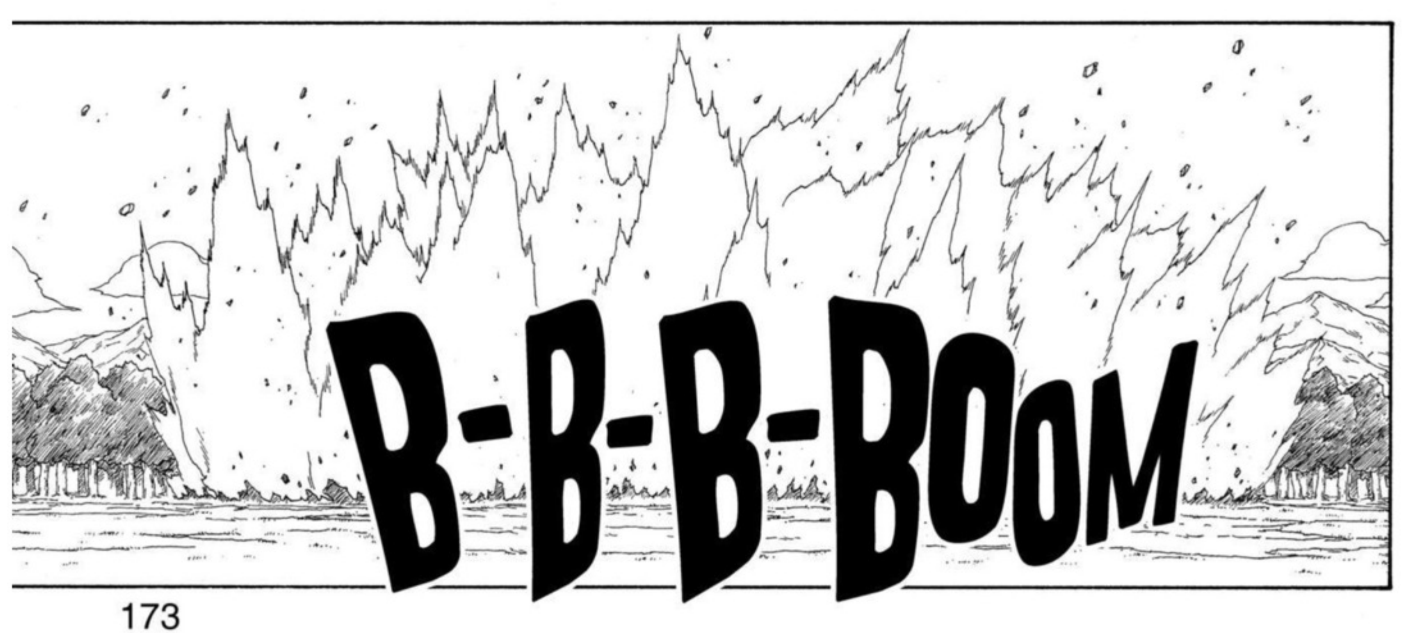
THWOCK

GAH! CAN'T MOVE!!

THE SAME SHURIKEN AS EARLIER ...?!!

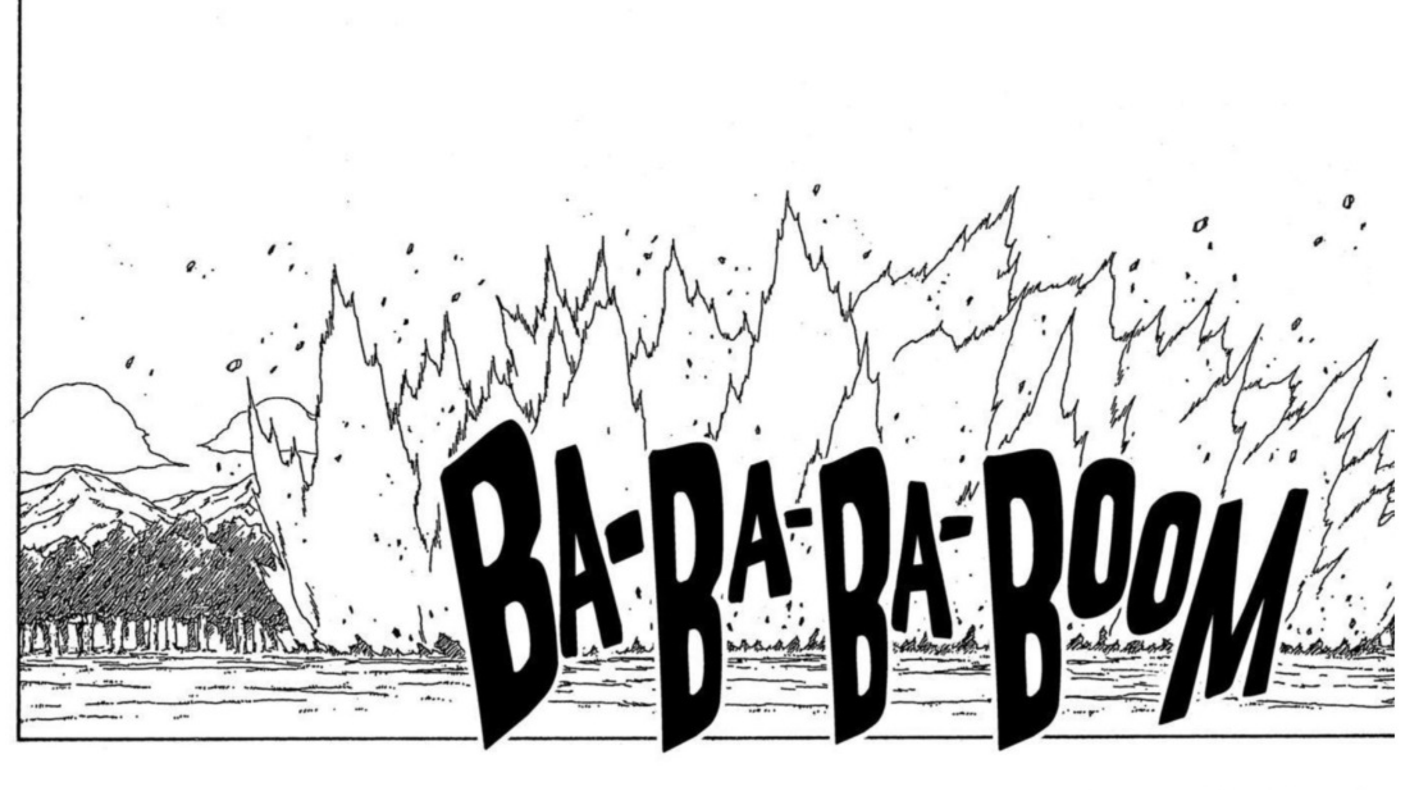
SHOOT! THE LAND MINES...!!

VWOOOOSH




NARUTO


Number 359:
Those Eyes...!!
UGH ...!
THAK
FWP
FWP
BWOP
WHSSH
BWOP
SSSSSS



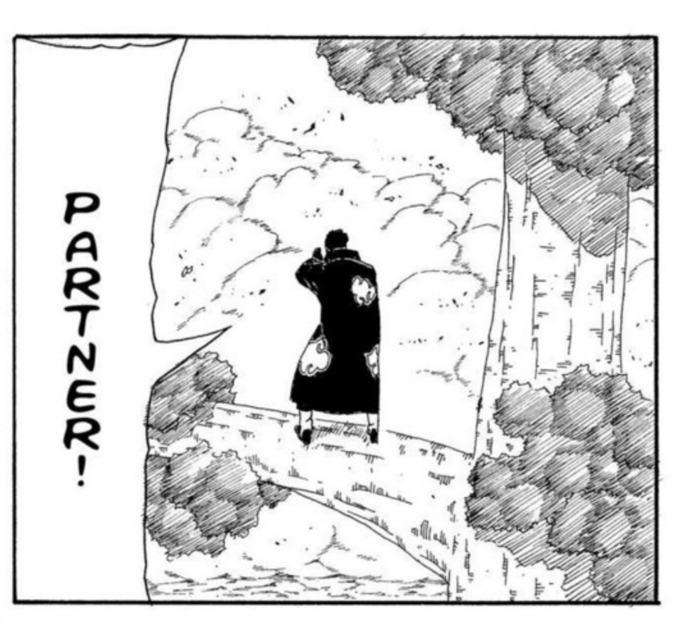
THWAP

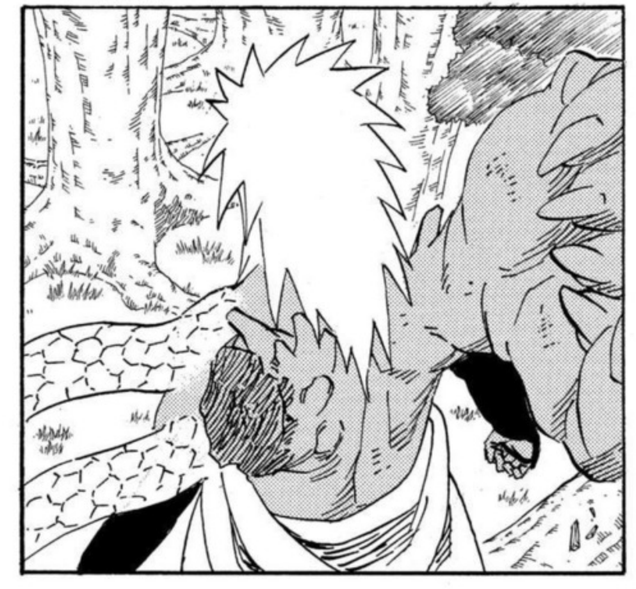
BLOP

THAP

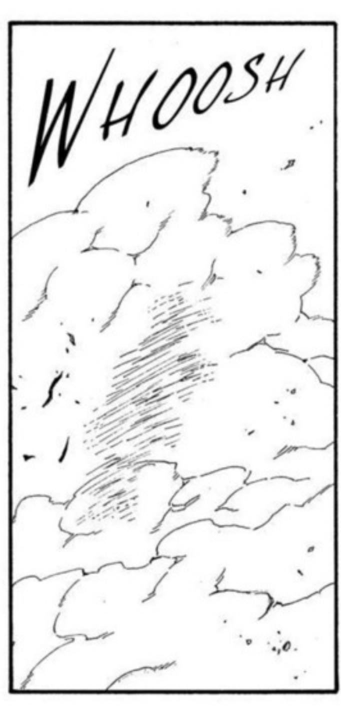
TAK

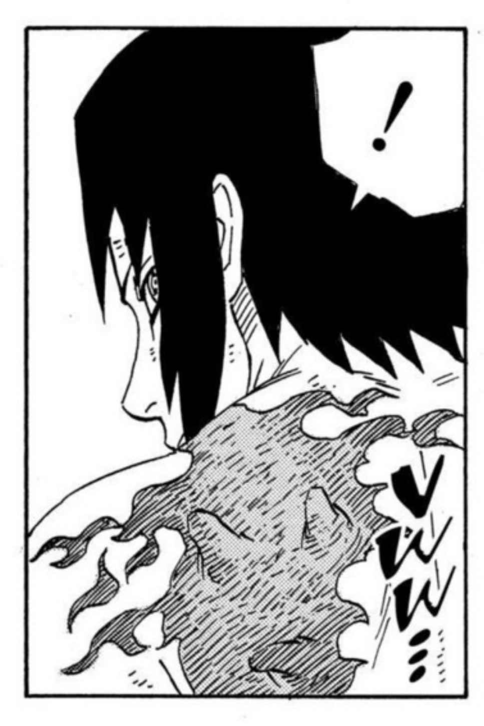

READ THIS WAY

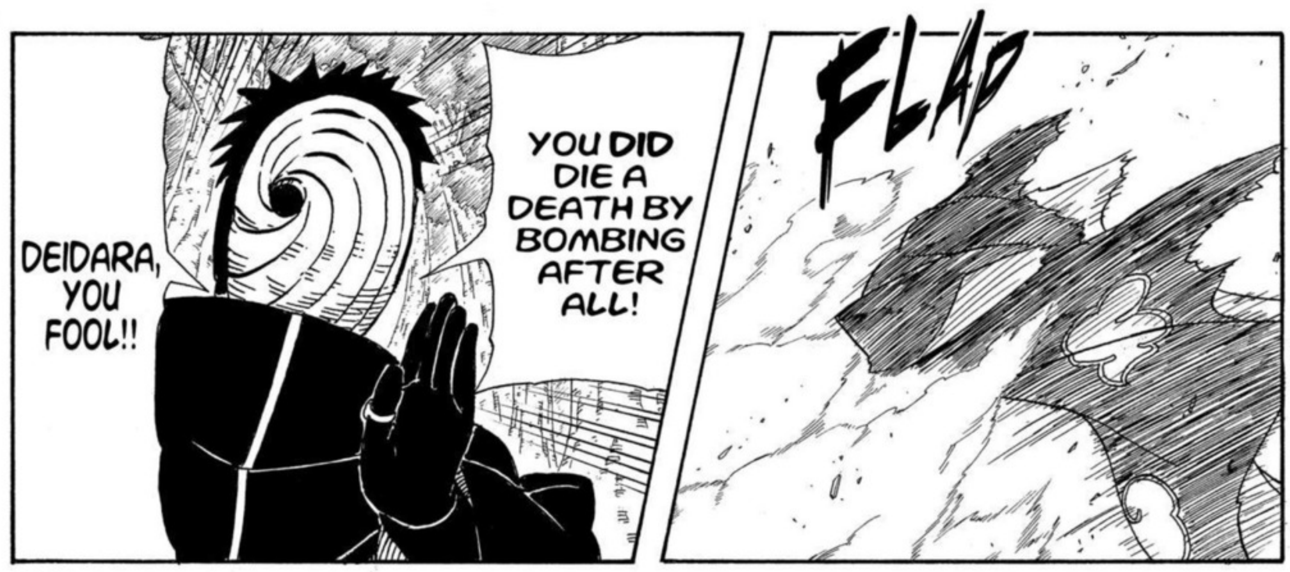

PARTNER!




Vwww...


WHOOSH


!
VWW...


FLAP
YOU DID DIE A DEATH BY BOMBING AFTER ALL!
DEIDARA, YOU FOOL!!

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO SHUT UP, TOBI?! HMMM?!







SHHK SHHK
SHHK SHHK

THOSE EYES...





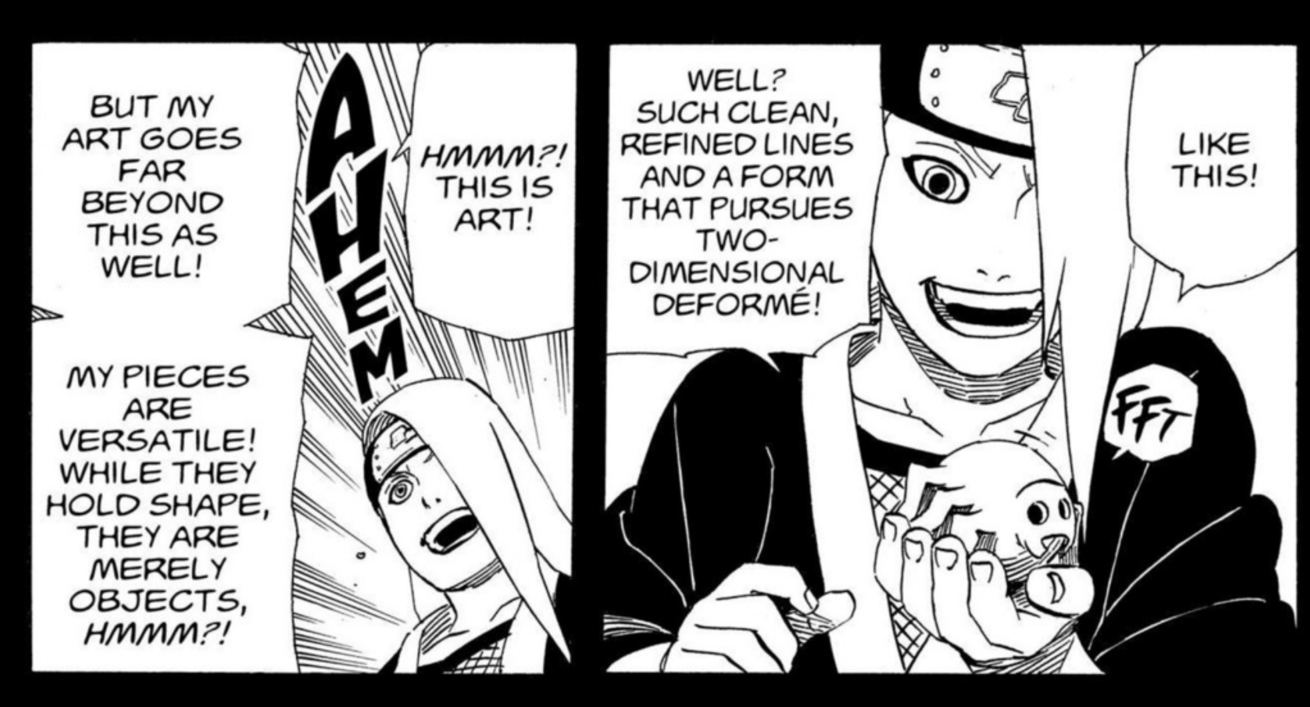



AKATSUKI?
DON'T KNOW AND DON'T CARE!
NOW GET LOST! YOU'RE KEEPING ME FROM MY ART APPRECIATION TIME!
I HAVE TO TAKE THIS BRAT ON AS MY PARTNER...?
SURE, HE'S FULL OF ENERGY, BUT HE SEEMS LIKE THE EARLY DEATH TYPE.
IT'S OUR LEADER'S ORDERS...
HIS TALENT WILL BE VERY USEFUL...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT MY TALENT?
WHO ARE YOU ANYWAY ...?!
WE KNOW YOU'RE AIDING THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FACTIONS OF NEIGHBORING NATIONS WITH TERRORIST BOMBINGS...
...YOU'RE A ROGUE NINJA... BUT WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE...?

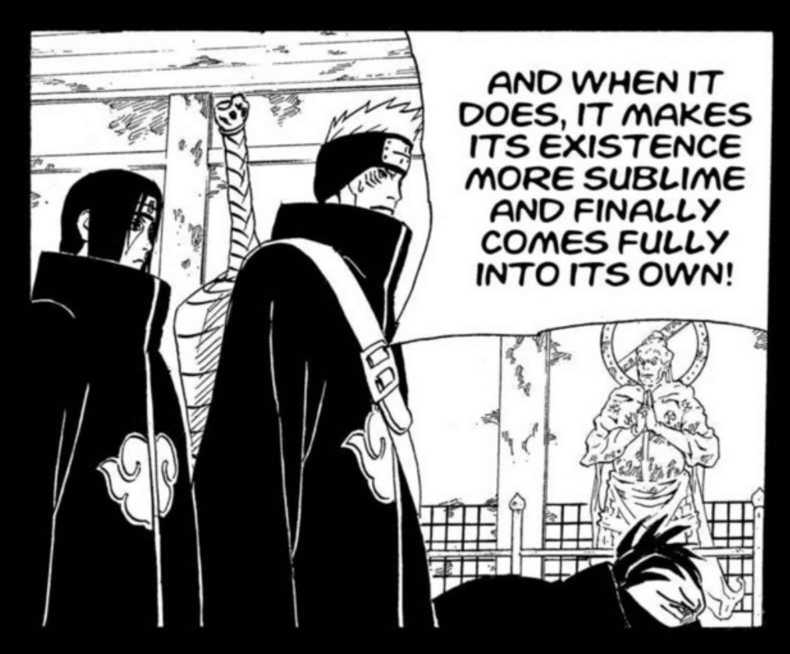

READ THIS WAY


PURPOSE?
DON'T NEED ONE.
I'M JUST TAKING COMMISSIONS TO CAUSE EXPLOSIONS.
USING MY ART, HMMM?!


YOUR ART?


LIKE THIS!
WELL? SUCH CLEAN, REFINED LINES AND A FORM THAT PURSUES TWO-DIMENSIONAL DEFORMÉ!
FFT
HMMM?! THIS IS ART!
AHEM
BUT MY ART GOES FAR BEYOND THIS AS WELL!
MY PIECES ARE VERSATILE! WHILE THEY HOLD SHAPE, THEY ARE MERELY OBJECTS, HMMM?!


BUT THIS THING CAN ALSO EXPLODE!
THOOM


AND WHEN IT DOES, IT MAKES ITS EXISTENCE MORE SUBLIME AND FINALLY COMES FULLY INTO ITS OWN!


I FEEL THAT TRUE ART LIVES ONLY IN THAT BRIEF FLASH OF SUBLIMATION! HMMM?!
TRUE ART IS AN EXPLOSION!!
...DISGUSTING...
IS HE DONE...?
WHO KNOWS...
DOESN'T MATTER, THOUGH... I'LL CONVINCE HIM.
SHP
!
VWEEN



WHAT'S UP WITH HIS EYES...?

YOU WANNA FIGHT?

DON'T YOU MOCK ME...OR MY ART!

SHF

MY NINJUTSU IS NOTHING BUT NOBLE, REFINED ART! HMMM?!!

CHOM

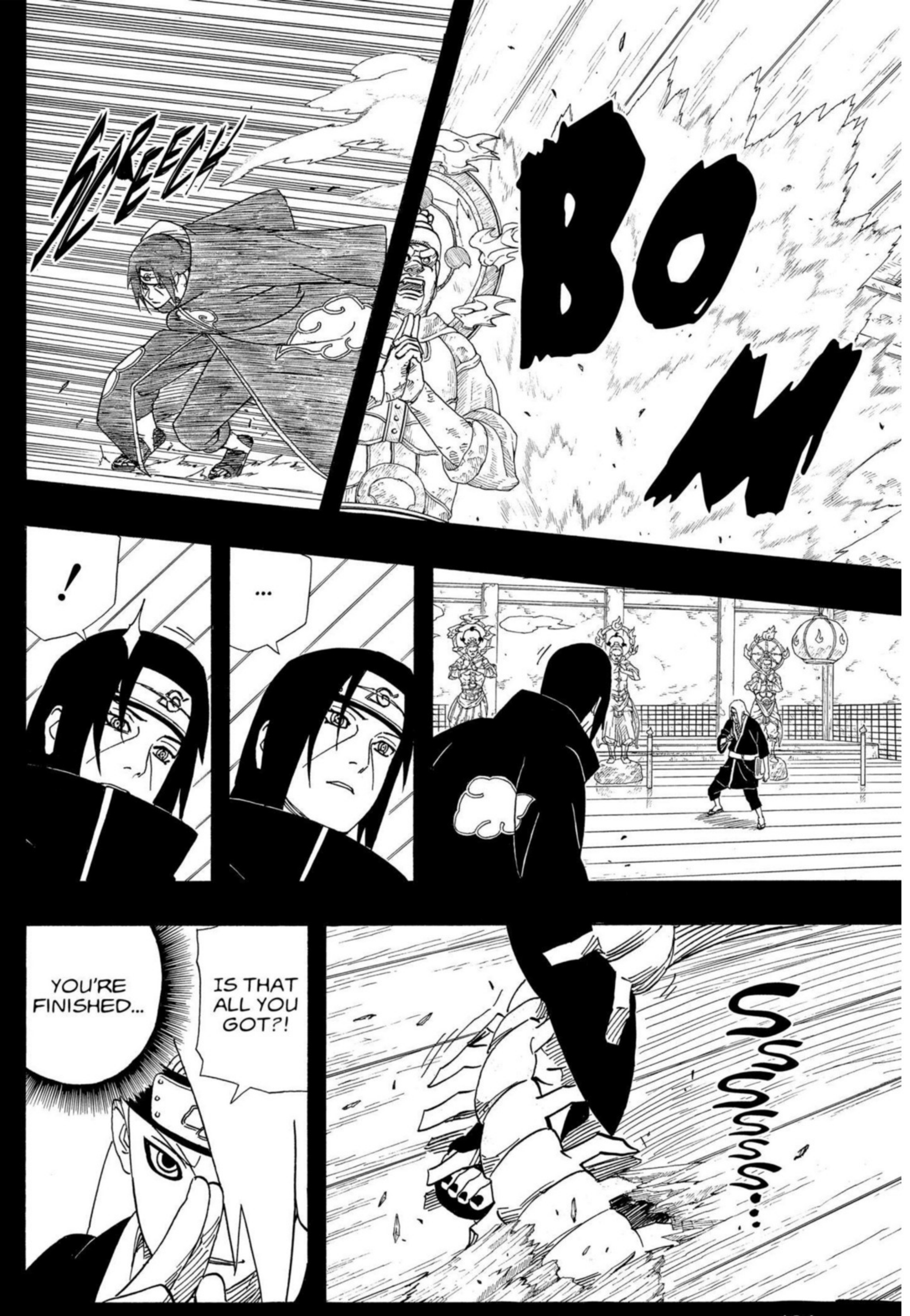
IF I WIN, YOU'LL COME WITH US.

FFT

THAP

WHSH

YEAAAGH!?


BOOM
SKREECH
...
!
SSSSSSS...
IS THAT ALL YOU GOT?!
YOU'RE FINISHED...

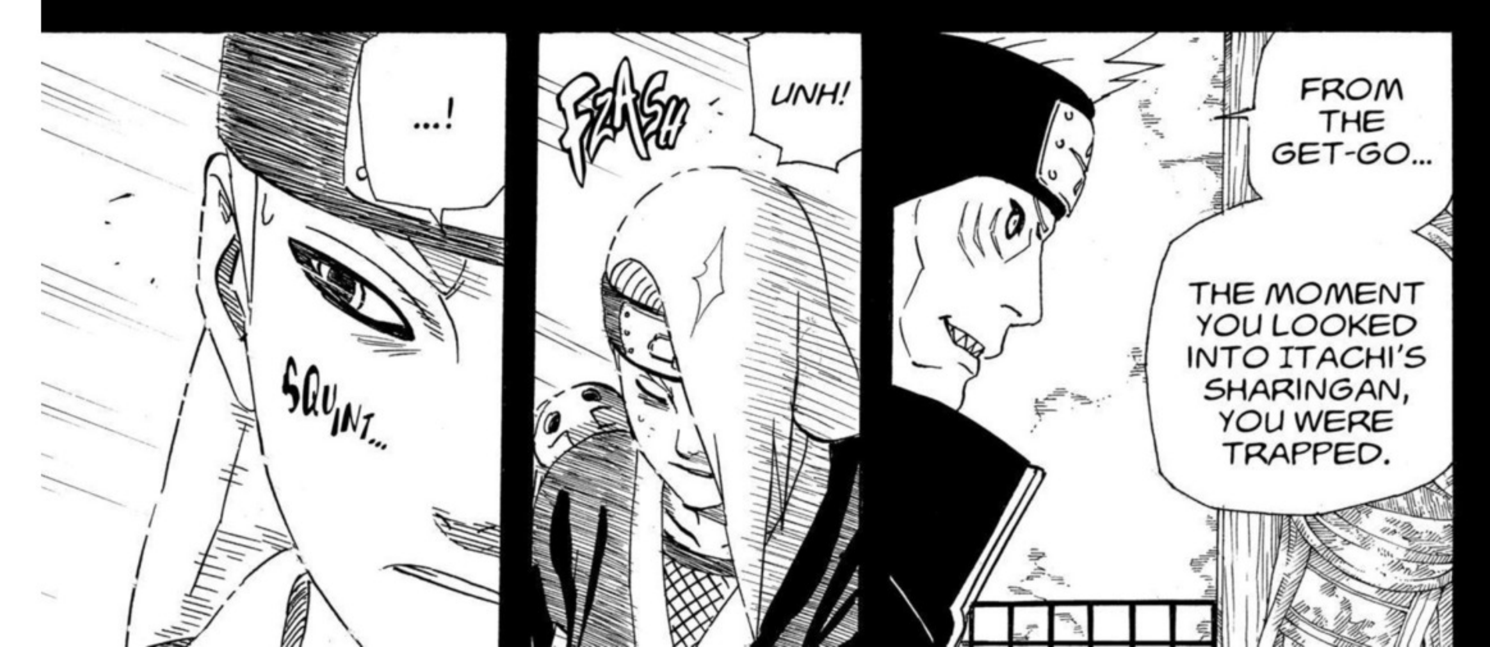

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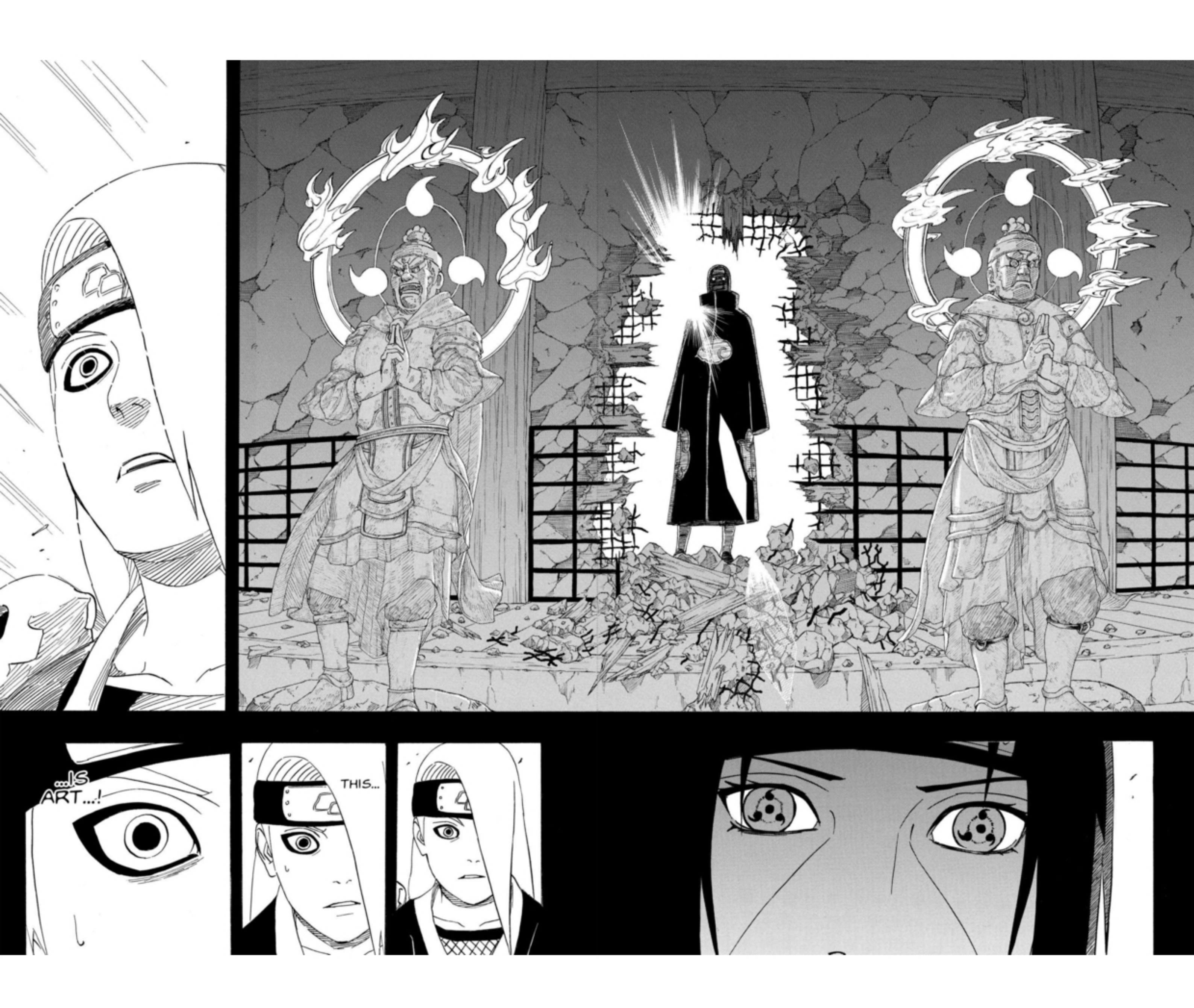

BETTER LOOK CLOSELY AT YOUR-SELF.


?!
OH!


THAT WAS CLOSE... YOU WERE ABOUT TO BLOW YOUR-SELF UP.
I TOLD YOU HE WOULD DIE AN EARLY DEATH...

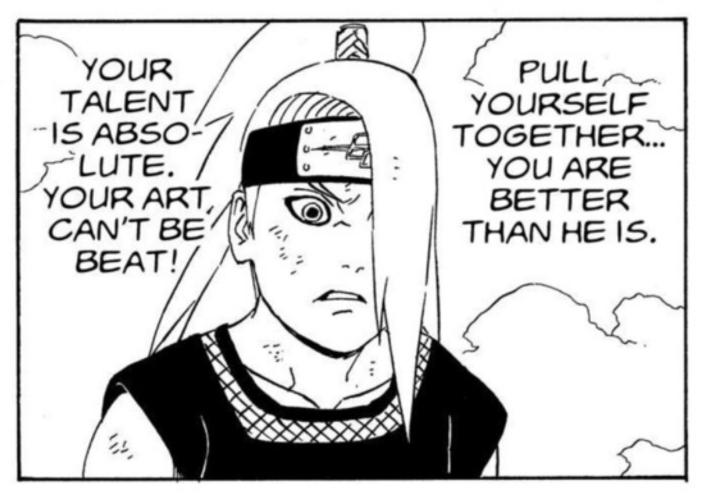

GEN-JUTSU ...?!
WHEN...


FROM THE GET-GO...
THE MOMENT YOU LOOKED INTO ITACHI'S SHARINGAN, YOU WERE TRAPPED.
UNH!
FLASH
...!
SQUINT...


THIS...
...IS ART...!

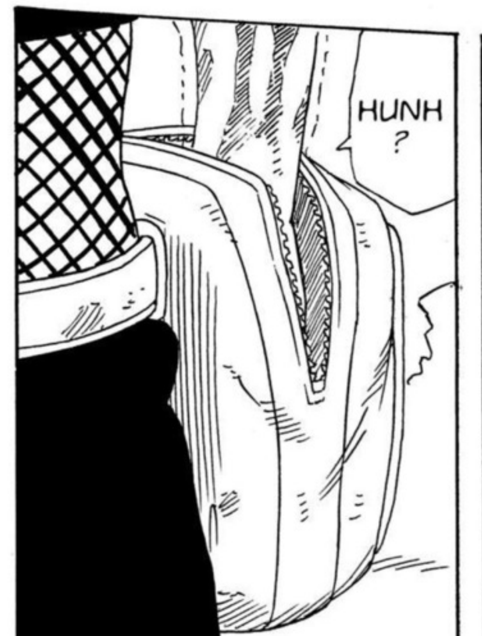

!!
GAH!
THUD...
NO... I WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE ABILITIES OF ANOTHER...
THAT OCULAR JUTSU... IT WAS NOT ART...
I WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE IT...
...NEVER!!
YOU LOSE.

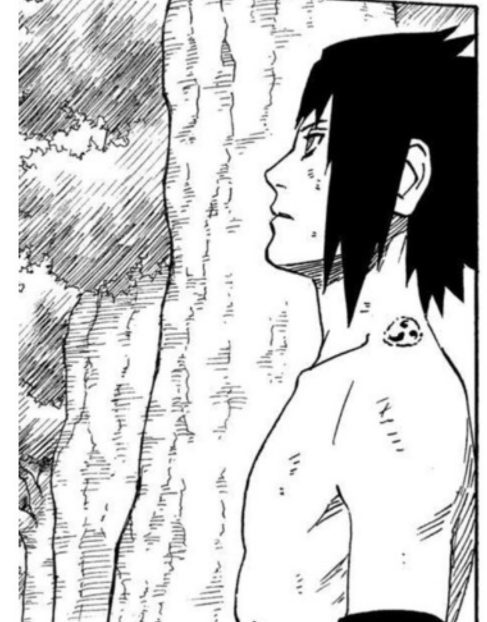

READ
THIS
WAY


PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER... YOU ARE BETTER THAN HE IS.
YOUR TALENT IS ABSOLUTE. YOUR ART CAN'T BE BEAT!


I KNOW I'M BETTER THAN YOU...
...I WILL NOT LOSE TO YOU!
NOT TO SUCH A... SUCH A...




HUNH ?




CHOMP
CHOMP
OH!
HE'S EATING THE DETO-NATION CLAY! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING...
ULP...
!
I'M GONNA KILL YOU WITH THIS... MY MASTER-PIECE!
SHFFF
TOBI!
RUN!!
WHOOSH
WHOA! YIKES!!



 TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOL. 40!